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Chief Defends NEMLEC

Methuen Chief Says Nothing to Fear From NEMLEC

PHOTO: DIANE FARIA

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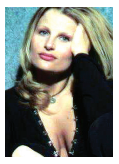

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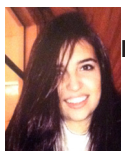

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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

HEROES IN OUR MIDST - THE MORAN BROTHERS

Gary Mannion, Jr.
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

Webster's dictionary defines a patriot as one who loves his or her country and supports its authority and interests. The Moran family was such a family; one of the many families, over the years, that has shown its support for its country. Born and raised on Willow St. in Lawrence, Massachusetts, the Moran boys learned very early what it meant to serve your community.

Their father, John A. Moran, was a firefighter for Lawrence for over 41 years and retired as a lieutenant. The family was made up of 5 boys: John, Freddy, Joe, Howie, and Moe, and one girl named Grace. All five of the boys served their country in the armed services. At one point, in 1944, four of the five boys were serving at the same time. John was the eldest. His brothers always referred to him as the luckiest of them. John was drafted in 1944 and only served until the birth of his third child, about 6 months later. During his short stint in the Navy, he served on the aircraft carrier, the USS Lexington as a second-class seaman. Returning home to his wife and three children, he went to work at Davis and Furber of North Andover.

The next three brothers were the middle brothers and together saw the most action in the war. Joe was the first one to enter the war. He entered in 1942, at only 17 years of age. He was assigned to the U.S.S. Elmore as a 3rd class radio man. The Elmore was an attack transport which transported close to 1500 troops at a time. He later also served on the U.S.S. Turner and U.S.S. Fisk, both of which were destroyers. Joe served in many places during the war, among them the Marshall Islands, Guam, the Philippines and Okinawa. Joe served until 1945 and was honorably discharged, returning back to work at the Arlington Mills.

Joe was joined by his brother, Freddy, in 1943. Freddy was the only of the four brothers who fought in the Air Corps during WWII, rather than the Navy like his brothers. Freddy was a corporal in the US Army Air Corps. Freddy spent most of his 3 years in Guam and the pacific theater as a radioman, with the 10th air force dealing mostly with P38's. He was honorably discharged in 1945. In 1950, as the Korean War started, Joe was called back into the service and gave 3 more years to his country and was again honorably discharged in 1953. Joe was also the recipient of the Bronze Star, and several battle stars.

MORAN BROTHERS: PAGE: 36

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We Stand with Israel, Free Palestine From Hamas

The Theater of Gaza.

For the past few weeks, Israel has been bombing locations in Gaza where the terror group Hamas stores its weaponry and wages war against them.

We find it shameful that the world "news" media is so biased against Israel that they not only allow, but participate in a concocted theater production that is created in Gaza and the West Bank when Israel blows up terrorists.

The "news" media on the ground in Gaza broadcast every bloody scene and declare daily body counts of how many "innocent civilians" have been killed by Israelis.

Rarely do they say these body count numbers come from the Muslim terrorists of Hamas, which they do.

Never do they broadcast video of the hundreds of rockets fired at Israel, from schools, hospitals, mosques, and apartment buildings, all with children nearby, designed to draw return fire upon their own children. The news media is right there. They see what is going on. But they are only showing one side.

It is clear that two things are happening in Gaza.

First, is that Gaza is run by cowardly thugs who operate their government the way movie mobster, Tony Soprano, would run a country if he could. They torture and murder those who do not comply with their whims, prey on their own civilians, and promise to commit genocide given the chance.

Second, is that Israel has taken great pains to avoid civilian casualties when possible but is painted as baby killers, hell bent on genocide even though they are the ones under threat of genocide by the Muslim Palestinians.

The world press watches on the ground in Gaza day after day, and like cameramen shooting a scripted movie, they only turn the cameras on when it's their scene. IE when Israel responds by firing at the locations Hamas rockets were fired from.

Then, without any objective way to determine which of the dead bodies are "innocent civilians" and which are the non-uniformed terrorists of Hamas (which does include women and children), the press spews a fake body count in an intentional effort to promote the moral of their movie: Israelis bad, Palestinians good.

Surprisingly, the American news media (except the anti-Semitic New York Times and Boston Globe) has been much more fair, objective, and in context with their reporting. But even the American press repeats the bogus body count numbers as if they are legitimate. This has to stop.

It's time to free the people of Gaza from Hamas.

Hamas offers no security, no freedom, no civil rights for gays, Blacks, Jews, Christians, or even fellow Muslims. There is no right to a trial in Gaza. There is no neutral police to maintain order. There is only a murderous terror group oppressing the Palestinian people.

We stand with Israel in their quest to show brutal, overwhelming force to destroy Hamas once and for all. We reject the fake narrative that protecting "innocent civilians" is more important than removing the Hamas threat for it is clear that if Hamas succeeds in their endeavors there will not only be no Jews left in Israel, but there will be no Palestinians left in Gaza.

Until Hamas is eradicated, the violence must continue.

We just wish the world press would do their jobs and turn the cameras on when Hamas rockets are fired from hospitals and schools. We also wish the leaders of the world would stand with Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East.

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Jeff Katz

VOTED AP's BEST RADIO TALK SHOW HOST
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD

As I sit down to write this month's column for The Valley Patriot, I've just enjoyed a wonderful day. Early this morning I wished my oldest son Harry a happy birthday. Today he turned thirteen and I officially became the father of a teenager. In classic over achiever style he's actually been working on his teenage angst for the better of two years already, but I digress.

Harry and I visited with the cantor at our synagogue to discuss his upcoming Bar Mitzvah. I ran around picking up birthday items through the day and finally, after work, the entire family sat down to enjoy the birthday treats. At Casa Katz, the rules for birthdays are clear. The person celebrating the birthday chooses dinner, cake flavor and entertainment. My son's choices included deep dish pizza and "The Avengers" as well as a chocolate cake with raspberry mousse and whipped cream frosting.

While, the day was filled with great fun and delicious tidbits, I could not help but notice what was going on outside of our home.

In Washington, DC a protest by illegal alien invaders was held in front of The White House. These criminals were demanding that they be consulted before any steps were taken to properly enforce our immigration laws. Hundreds of illegals stood outside of The White House, shouting, chanting, carrying signs and mugging for television cameras all the while bottom feeding politicians continued to tell us about how these poor folks were hiding in the shadows. Funny that ICE agents were apparently otherwise occupied and therefore unable to arrest anyone. Of course, federal agents were dispatched by this president to arrest American heroes who dared to visit a memorial to their fallen comrades last year.

In the Middle East, the region's lone democracy continued to fight for survival. The real leader of the free world, Bibi Netanyahu leads the battle to stamp out Hamas and other Muslim terrorist groups while Barack Obama stands in The White House and proclaims that Muslims have "built the very fabric" of the United States.

Senior Obama administration officials refuse to respond to lawful subpoenas to answer for their actions. Illegal aliens, many infected with communicable diseases and already affiliated with criminal gangs, are being relocated all around the country. Our economy remains in shambles and the ranks of the unemployed and underemployed are sky high.

There's more bad news in the world, and like many fathers I have to wonder what sort of a nation I will deliver to my kids. It will be much different than the one I got from my own Dad that much is for sure.

But at least, we got to eat cake and watch a super hero dubbed Captain America rescue the world. Perhaps there is still hope.

Jeff Katz is a former police officer, former talk show host on Talk1200AM and won the Associated Press Award for Best Talk Show In Boston two years in a row. He is now an exclusive columnist for The Valley Patriot. He is the recipient of The Valley Patriot's 2013 Editor's Choice Award for exceptional writing about issues that effect our lives. WEBSITE: visionaccomplished.net

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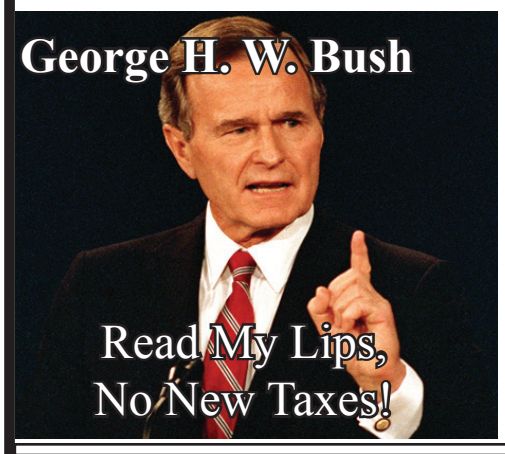

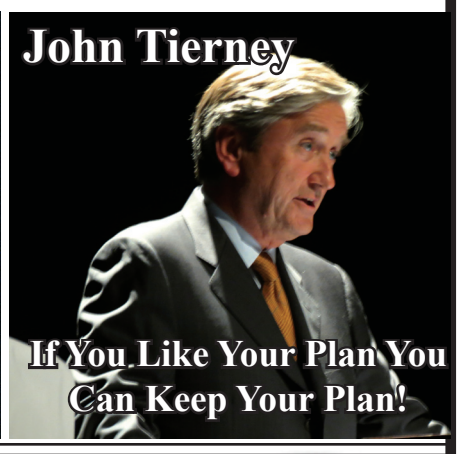

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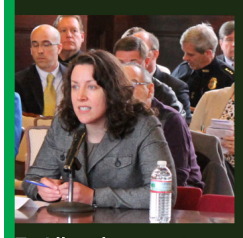

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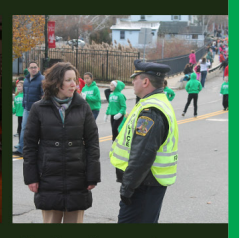

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Can You Resist the Devil's Brew?

Dr. Charles Ormsby
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The theory of evolution suggests that species change in ways that increase their ability to thrive. Biological evolution is generally a slow process but can exhibit rapid transformations if a mutant specie emerges which has substantial survival advantages.

Human societies based on different principles also have different degrees of success in sustaining their citizens. One would expect that societies, like species, would also evolve in a manner that favors better outcomes. Unlike biological processes, societal evolution can occur very rapidly since all it requires is that the majority of people recognize the better outcomes and adopt those principles that fostered success.

Unfortunately, evil forces that hinder the adoption of sound principles are often at work even when citizens are free to implement them.

Societal "experiments" are constantly being carried out both internationally and domestically and the results are available to anyone who cares to observe them.

One key characteristic that is varied in these societal experiments is the degree to which property rights are protected. Reviewing the results of these experiments over the last 250 years, the success of societies that respect property rights is evident to any objective observer, as is the utter devastation caused by societies based on theft.

Domestically, the results are also compelling. States that have low or moderate taxes and a relatively favorable regulatory climate are thriving when compared to those where high taxes and destructive regulations kill jobs and economic growth.

While the evidence is clear, self-serving politicians constantly tout discredited socio-economic propaganda relying on low information voters, moochers and those embracing victimhood to ignore the obvious path to upward mobility and prosperity. These politicians instead offer dependency on government and life-long serfdom, while suppressing individual freedom.

Let's review some key facts and clear trends that any objective review of economic history could confirm:

• the scourge of famine has never existed in any capitalist society,

• countries ranked "mostly free" have four times the per-capita income of countries ranked "mostly unfree" and incomes double again for countries ranked "free,"

• wars between countries which protect property rights are nearly non-existent,

• well over 100 million innocent human beings were slaughtered during the 20th Century by statist governments that rejected property rights,

• the per capita income of "non-free" countries (approximately $2800 annually) is substantially bolstered by foreign aid and technology infused by free countries and that, if left on their own, these statist societies would have descended into even greater misery,

• in Communist China, before the introduction of market forces, hundreds of millions of Chinese lived on less than $1 per day,

• economic growth was nearly non-existent until the year 1500 and then averaged only about 1/10th of 1 percent per year from 1500 to 1700 when capitalism emerged, and subsequently this rate of growth accelerated by a factor of 15 in countries that embraced capitalist free markets,

• and, that the poorest 10% of Americans live more comfortably today than the monarchs of the pre-capitalist period.

Just think how much more prosperous the world would be if government interference in the marketplace had been substantially less.

The unmistakable conclusion is that capitalism and protection of property rights lead to prosperity, while statism, the rejection of property rights in favor of arbitrary government authority, leads inevitably to poverty and human misery.

It is undeniable that respect for property rights and the institution of free markets – together known as capitalism – creates prosperity and facilitates the "pursuit of happiness" as envisioned by our Founding Fathers. So why is America losing sight of these self-evident truths and instead embracing their antithesis, statism?

The answer is that a short-term deal with the Devil can often seem more appealing than an honest proposition that is in one's long-term best interests.

Consider, for example, that:

• a government subsidy that lines a businessman's pockets today may seem preferable and easier to achieve than the long-term benefits of honest competition in a free market,

• the near-term benefits of a cheap, rent-controlled apartment may be enticing even though they will inevitably lead to lower quality, less available and less affordable housing years later as landlords abandon the housing market,

• mandatory employment benefits and increased minimum wages are sought despite their negative impact on job growth and long-term wage levels,

• regulations that stifle competition appeal to established businesses even though they represent impediments to growth that accumulate over time, and

• guaranteed public assistance today will always be welcomed and encouraged by its recipients even though their long term interests and self-worth are almost always impaired by it.

The list is endless.

So who are the Devils that peddle these poison pills? Of course you know the answer: The crime syndicate of statists, the Democrat Party aided by RINO Republicans and reinforced by an army of moochers, including crony socialists.

These Devils are trying to make a deal with America:

Eviscerate the Constitution that has protected our freedoms for over 200 years in exchange for a share of the loot stolen by an all-powerful state.

They don't advertise the obvious immorality of this pact or its inevitable consequences: grinding poverty and a descent into slavery, not to mention the threat of death to those who resist.

Can you say no to the Devil's offer? Can America say no?

We will know this November.

Dr. Charles Ormsby served two terms on the North Andover School Committee, co-founded the North Andover Taxpayers Association, is a a co-founder of and columnist for The Valley Patriot, broadcasts weekly opinion pieces for WCAP (980 AM) in Lowell, and is a faculty member in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Dr. Ormsby is a graduate of Cornell and has a doctorate degree from MIT. You can email him at ccormsby@verizon.net

Anne's Andover Notebook

Anne Knowles
ANDOVER COLUMNIST

Residents and visitors to Andover have probably noticed signs with the letters AVIS and might have wondered what that is. Well, it stands for Andover Village Improvement Society, one of the oldest conservation groups in the United States. AVIS maintains miles of trails, bridges, and boardwalks that cross wetlands and enhance the beauty of natural woodlands and meadows.

AVIS encourages everyone to enjoy the more than 1100 acres in the thirty-five reservations throughout Andover. For over one hundred years, AVIS members have supported these projects so that the public can continue to enjoy the peace and beauty of natural woodlands.

Since AVIS is a charitable non-profit society, it does encouraged those interested in joining AVIS to contact the group at their website – www.avisandover.org or on facebook.com/AVISAndover. Supporters of AVIS can continue the tradition of helping to maintain these wonderful lands for years to come. Preservation isn't free, and donations to AVIS are just one of the ways, this organization can continue to be a great part of the Andover community.

OTHER ANDOVER ACTIVITIES

Andover Youth Services is in full swing of their summer programs. Registrations for many of the activities are still available. For details, check their website at andoveryouthservices.com. Also, check the fall programs that are being offered. The AYS always has something to offer through the many activities and programs scheduled for Andover's young people.

Farmer's Market will continue until September 2, 2014 every Saturday from 10am until 2pm. It is held on the grounds of the Andover Historical Society, located at 97 Main Street, Downtown Andover. There are over 30 vendors who have participated in this year's market. Information may be found on the Andover Farmer's Market page or at the andoverhistoricalsociety.org.

There are many activities that can be found locally in our community for everyone, young and old. Visits to Memorial Hall Library, The Senior Center at Punchard, Pomp's Pond and Concerts in the Park are just a few of them. The concerts will be held Wednesdays through August 13, 2014 at 6pm. In case of rain, they will be held inside the WWI Memorial Auditorium, 36 Bartlet Street.

Jewish Adventures Summer Program

The Merrimack Valley just hosted its second Gan Israel Jewish Adventures Summer program (June, 30-July, 18). The children had a most awesome time from arrival through dismissal. In fact, they did not want to go home at the end of the day! And parents were in for a surprise in the mornings. Their children jumped right out of bed - no need for continuous wake ups!

Children at CGI enjoyed a wide range of activities. From sports like soccer, basketball and baseball, to baking, Zumba, games, art, and crafts. Swimming three days a week was comprised of free swim, as well as fun water games. Field trips twice a week included attractions such as Canobie Lake Park, Lazer Craze, Magic Brush Pottery, Discovery Museums, and more! And of course, each activity at CGI was done with a unique Jewish twist.

Children at CGI gained a Jewish pride and knowledge. They gained true friendships. Most of all, they gained a fun experience.

For more information please visit our website ganisraelmv.com or email jewishnorthandover@gmail.com.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY MCEVOY FIELD SUTTON STREET, NORTH ANDOVER

The North Andover Board of Selectmen and Town Manager held a groundbreaking ceremony for the improvements to McEvoy Field on Sutton Street. The improvements have been made possible by the financial support of the North Andover Community Preservation Committee, the volunteer efforts of the North Andover Fields Committee and the North Andover Boosters Club, the dedicated efforts of the staff of the North Andover Public Works and Conservation Departments, and of course the support of residents and taxpayers of North Andover.

Democrats, it's time for change and diversification! On September 9th, Democrats have one chance to elect a State Senator who can advocate for equality for ALL!!

Doris
RODRIGUEZ
DEMOCRAT for STATE SENATE

Activities, Announcements North Andover Senior Center

LOOK WHAT'S BACK! Spend a hot summer day enjoying a monthly day trip to Foxwoods! Comfortable, clean motor coach that leaves from St Michael's Church on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Next trip scheduled for August 12th. We must have 28 persons for the trip to run. Sign up with reception at the North Andover Senior Center. Trip cost $35, includes a food voucher and $10 slot play.

Volunteers are the backbone of the North Andover Senior Center, and we currently need Medical Transport Volunteers. You can set your own hours. Call the Senior Center for more information. Speak with our Program Coordinator at 688-9560 for application and assistance.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

NEW THIS SUMMER: WEDNESDAYS "FRESH TABLE" at the North Andover Senior Center at noon. The congregate meal will not be served on Wednesdays. Instead, a fresh meal in-house will be prepared. Cost $5, reservation with reception must be made the Friday before. Limited to 24. Check with reception for menu. No refunds or take out.

WENTWORTH BY THE SEA: Tuesday, August 12th. Bus $5, lunch on your own. Sign up begins July 23rd with reception.

MONTHLY MYSTERY RIDE: Thursday, August 14th. Harbor Tugboat Ride and Bus $15. Lunch on your own @ Capt. & Patty's. Bus leaves at 9:30am. (Need a minimum of 18 to run this trip).

DAY TRIP TO GARDEN IN THE WOODS, FRAMINGHAM: Friday, August 15th. Admission is FREE, lunch on your own at CJ's Northside Grill. Bus charge $5 and departs Sr. Center at 10am.

SUPPER CLUB: Thursday, August 21st, Black Cow, Newburyport, MA. Bus departs Sr. Center @ 4:15. Bus charge $4. Sign up begins August 6th.

TUESDAY NIGHT DINNER BUFFETS: The fourth in a monthly series of dinners being offered at the Senior Center, is Tuesday, August 19th at 4pm. Methuen Village will be our host with a delicious gourmet dinner. Cost is $3 and you must sign-up in person with reception, which begins August 5th. Limited to 35 North Andover Senior Center Members.

LECTURE SERIES: July 28, Tom Licciardello, Topic TBA.

ONE ON ONE COMPUTER INSTRUCTION: 45 minute sessions for $7. Tuesdays 9-12 with George Chory, Thursdays 9-12 with Tom Kooken. Make your appointments with reception 978-688-9560.

GADGETS CLASS: Mini series of classes focused on learning how to use electronic gadgets such as iPads, Nooks and Kindles. Starting July 15th, this class will focus on e-readers. Express your interest and sign up with reception, 978-688-9560.

NEWS & VIEWS: Every Wednesday from 10–11:30. Come and join in the lively discussion of current events, politics, history and you never know what else.

S.H.I.N.E. Volunteers (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders): Free, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to North Andover residents on Medicare. Call center for an appointment. Third Tuesday of the month, 12-3pm during the summer. Aug 19th.

MEET WITH AN ATTORNEY: Att. Ray Cannon, Aug 6th, 10-11:30. Att. Ramsey Bahrawy, August 19th, 11:30-1. Schedule with Reception - first consult is free.

MR. FIX IT: August 4th and 18th, Mondays, 12-3pm. We repair almost as good

SR. CENTER: PAGE: 30

Methuen Chief on Militarization of Law Enforcement

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Methuen Police Chief Joe Solomon appeared on Valley Patriot publisher Tom Duggan's radio program (Paying Attention!) on 980WCAP.

As part II of our series on Law Enforcement in Massachusetts we focus on the North East Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council known as "NEMLEC".

NEMLEC is a conglomeration of police officers from 54 different police departments trained to deal with crisis situations and are often used in hostage situations. NEMLEC has been roundly criticized by civil libertarian organizations and groups that hate the government. Because NEMLEC is considered a private organization, their books are not considered public record. This prompted criticism and a challenge by the Massachusetts ACLU. We asked Solomon during his radio interview to address the concerns people have about what some say is the over militarization of our local police.

TOM DUGGAN: Do you worry we are over-militarizing our police in urban and suburban neighborhoods?

CHIEF SOLOMON: "I have concern, but I don't have worry. What it all comes down to is, who's in charge?

You have to have your trust in leaders. In this case, politicians should be watching over our law enforcement. I have never hidden from the press. We've had a go around in Methuen with some 1st and 2nd armament people, but we are open, we're there, and it is a concern but here's what I look at:

When we are actually out on the street and we are moving to a location where we know there are barricaded doors, and there are people inside who may be armed, we are either serving a warrant or trying to get in to extract a person. Why wouldn't I want my officers behind an armed vehicle? Why wouldn't I want my officers behind something that can stop a round?

Most of the old SWAT vehicles we used could stop a round or two, but that was it. These new armored vehicles will continue to stop rounds. Why wouldn't I want my men behind bullet proof shields, wearing helmets as we approach? Why wouldn't I want trained officers who know how to deal with this exact circumstance?

Twenty-five years ago, I remember going into a house on the west end of Methuen with another officer. We were told by our supervisor that a guy shot at his wife, he's in the attic, go in and get him.

We had routine bulletproof vests, no armor, no helmet, with a .357 pistol. We both worked our way back to the guy's attic and luckily, he put his hands up and put his 9MM semi-automatic weapon down and surrendered himself. But we were lucky.

Today we'd call the NEMLEC, or our special operations team that we have in Methuen all geared up behind armor, and let them go into the house. They are trained, they are expert shots, they carry flash-bangs, they are much better trained and equipped to deal with what's on the streets today. This isn't 25 years ago.

ON NEMLEC

"When I feel like I can't get any further, I will ask them for their expert advice. They will give us the advice, but the call is mine to make as the local police chief. If I decide not to go in, they don't go in. You can be comfortable to know that your local city chief is actually controlling what's going on."

~Methuen Police Chief, Joe Solomon

Of course there is a concern [about militarizing the police]. There's always a concern, you would be crazy not to have a concern. But it's that concern that keeps everybody straight, it keeps us doing the right things. As soon as we make a mistake and do something wrong, you can call us on it, and I will admit it, and we will correct it."

TOM DUGGAN: The day you make a mistake though, someone dies. I think that's the valid concern people have.

CHIEF SOLOMON: "It may be. It doesn't necessarily mean when you make a mistake somebody dies. It can result in injury or it can result in no injury. But, we have to make the best decisions we can based on all our tactical training. You know, I have been criticized for twelve years because I don't sit at the desk all day. I have heard 'why are you out there on the scene? Why do you open yourself up to a liability?'

If you have your command staff or your chief, even the captains out at the scene, you have the oversight you need. That's why we need to have trusted leaders in place.

But yes, there is a valid concern about over militarization of law enforcement. But, I would ask this: isn't it just a response to what we are seeing? When did you start to see criminals on the streets with semi-automatic AK-47's, or m4 rifles, or hand grenades ... or pull over a car routinely that has six rifles and five handguns? If you look around the country, you see that this is what law enforcement is faced with every day.

You know what we used to see twenty-five years ago?

We saw five guys fighting and everybody had a gun, but they all had one gun. They were using handguns and mainly revolvers. Today they could have a handgun with a fifteen round magazine. I just saw a Glock .229 magazine, that's a thirty round capacity magazine. So, everyone we deal with on the street could very well be possessing

NEMLEC: 13

Georgetown Couple will run Falmouth Road Race to Raise Awareness for Organ and Tissue Donation

Kip and Valerie Durney of Georgetown will participate in the 42nd Annual Falmouth Road Race to raise funds and awareness for the New England Organ Bank. The team consists of 20 athletes who will run in "Organ Donors Save Lives" running shirts to raise awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation, and to urge those watching the popular race to consider registering to be organ and tissue donors.

This is Valerie's third year participating on the NEOB team. As a Nurse Practitioner, she works with patients waiting for a lifesaving transplant, making the cause very meaningful for her. This year she has recruited her husband Kip to join in the fun. The 7 mile course will be the longest road race he has attempted so far.

"This is our third year with a team participating in the Falmouth Road Race and we are very excited to be back" said Laura Dempsey, Team Coordinator. "Many of our runners have a personal connection to donation and are very passionate about the cause."

Currently there are close to 5000 patients waiting for a life-saving organ transplant in New England, and over 120,000 across the United States. Sadly, an average of 18 patients die every day while waiting, simply because the organ they needed did not become available in time.

Additionally, over one million Americans require a tissue transplant each year as part of a medical procedure. These procedures are possible because ordinary folks have donated corneas, bone, tendons, heart valves and skin after death. These tissues are used to treat a wide variety of conditions, some of which may be life threatening.

This easiest way to register as a donor is to do so when you renew your driver's license, or to sign up online at www.DonateLifeNewEngland.org. Like the driver's license designation, the Donate Life New England Donor Registry is a computer database of individuals who have made the decision to be a donor, and can be accessed in a timely way after an individual's passing so that their wish to donate may be honored.

New England Organ Bank is the federally-designated, non-profit procurement organization responsible for the surgical recovery of organs and tissues for transplant throughout the New England region.

Donate Life New England is a joint project of two federally designated organ procurement organizations that serve New England – LifeChoice Donor Services and New England Organ Bank. They have come together to create a fast and easy way for citizens of New England to register as organ and tissue donors in a secure and confidential manner. For more information, visit www.donatelifenewengland.org.

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Thoughts from Councilor #5

Daniel Grayton
METHUEN CITY COUNCILOR

Greetings Valley Patriots! It is my pleasure to begin to provide an article each month geared towards those of you with a eye trained on Methuen and its politics. Look forward to brief articles touching on several topics like Council votes and other decisions and events affecting those who live here. Enjoy.

Uber ambulance anyone?

Ambulance rides are now more costly in Methuen. Early in July, the council voted 8-1 to raise ambulance rates to 300% above the Medicare Fee Schedule. As the one dissenting councilor, I felt there were several reasons to oppose such an increase. First and foremost, the practice of increasing spending and then taxes and fees to pay for it is unsustainable. As part of the most recent budget, $300,000 in fire overtime was cut in exchange for the hiring of four new firefighters. Within the month, the council was taking a vote on a resolution to raise ambulance fees that would potentially increase revenue by over $300,000. While a roundabout way of going about it, this amounts to a spending increase. I don't fault the department for this. In fact, each department head should be expected to work to secure as much revenue flowing to their department as they can. However, while the department heads are looking out for their departments, it is the councilors job to represent taxpayers and diligently keep spending in check. If we as a council can show we are serious about holding the line on spending, we will be faced with less need to raise taxes and fees. Likewise, if we show we are unwilling to raise taxes and fees further, spending will increase less rapidly. This is not a blanket statement opposing user fees, which can be a fairer way to raise revenues in certain situations. However, in this specific instance the increase prompted increased spending without a consideration given to cost savings.

Countdown to Sept. 9th

The campaign signs sprouting up around town indicate that the season for phone calls, mailings, and personal visits from campaigners is fast approaching - and it has the makings of a bountiful season. First out of the gate is Senator Ives running for a second term representing the 1st Essex district. Her signs have shrunk since the last time she ran, much like support from the progressive wing of her party. Trying to capitalize on that is Methuen native Jessica Finocchairo. If successful, Finocchairo would be the first challenger to knock off a sitting incumbent in this seat during a primary since Councilor Jim Jajuga did it in 1990. However, the implications of this race stretch far beyond just the general election - they will also help determine whether Dennis Marcello will be allowed to photobomb Methuen political events for two more years. Meanwhile, in the lower chamber, incumbent Rep. and Moped enthusiast, Diana DiZoglio, will be attempting to fend off challenges of her own. Hailing from North Andover, establishment darling, Phil DeCologero, and Army veteran, Oscar Camargo, are looking to defeat the incumbent using pages from Dizoglio's own 2012 playbook. Contentious from the start, the jabs in this race will likely increase as the month of August wears on. Driven largely by the competitive gubernatorial race, this contest will ultimately be decided by which towns turn out the highest (or lowest).

Daniel Grayton is currently serving as a Councilor at-Large in the City of Methuen. He can be reached at DanielGrayton@gmail.com

Pest Control and Lawn Care Answering Your Questions

The days are long, the sunshine is plentiful and the temperatures are hot. Although we are in the midst of the dog days of summer, fall is right around the corner. During the fall, Pest-End Exterminators & Pro-Tech Lawn Care is busy helping customers prepare their homes and lawns for the upcoming winter and early spring. Fall is a prime time to have your home or business baited for mice before they take refuge there for the winter. It is also a great time to consider renovating your lawn to improve and enhance the turf's health for next spring.

How do I know if I have mice in my home?

Are you hearing noises at night, maybe above your head or in the wall while you are trying to sleep? Chances are mice have entered your home when you least expect them to. A mouse only needs ¼ of an inch opening to squeeze into your home. Other common entry points are through the garage if the doors are left open as well as vents and chimneys, particularly if trees overhang your roof. Pest-End Exterminators' service entails a thorough inspection of the exterior and interior of your home. The technician looks for access points. If entry points are located, our service technicians will work with the home owner to determine the best way to block them up. The next step involves using baited, labeled and locked boxes within the home for mice to feed on. We also suggest using exterior baited rodent stations to help prevent mice from ever entering your home. Mice are curious rodents and like to investigate new objects in their territory. Thus, properly placed baited stations can help eliminate the mice quickly and effectively.

When is the best time to renovate your lawn?

Fall is a great time to consider renovating your lawn. As the temperatures cool and the days grow shorter, the ideal condition for seed germination occurs. One of Pro-Tech Lawn Care's most popular services is our aeration and overseed package. Core aeration breaks up compacted soil, prunes turf roots, and removes thatch. This improves the penetration of oxygen, water and nutrients into the root zone of your turf. It also brings up beneficial bacteria to the surface to help break down the thatch layer. Overseeding introduces new plants into your lawn. We at Pest-End Exterminators and Pro-Tech Lawn Care choose new turf cultivars that are disease and insect resistant varieties. This improves the integrity of the lawn, and also increases turf density and vigor. Overall, aerating and overseeding creates a healthier environment for your turf, which improves plant health and reduces disease activity.

If you have any questions about pests or lawns that you would like answered, send an email to Amanda at aforrestall@pestendinc.com. Your question may be featured in our next article!

-The Pest Girls (Amanda Forrestall & Courtney Carace)

Democrat Jessica Finocchiaro Challenges Ives on Her Votes Against Raising the Minimum Wage

Heading into the final full month before the primaries, Methuen Democrat Jessica Finocchiaro has focused on her opponent's votes against the minimum wage increase as the clearest distinction between the two candidates.

"The most important step the legislature took to make sure working people are able to support themselves and their families in recent years," explained Finocchiaro, "my opponent opposed and tried to weaken."

Finocchiaro has been forthright about the needs to stand up for working families and, prior to joining the race for State Senate, was an active organizer working on the campaign to increase the minimum wage. A lifelong resident of the Merrimack Valley from a family of union factory workers and veterans, she says she knows firsthand the challenges people and small businesses face every day, and is looking forward to being their faithful advocate in the State Senate.

It is Finocchiaro's populist message that has earned her support from wide range of local leaders and statewide organizations despite the fact that her opponent, incumbent Kathleen O'Connor Ives, is also a Democrat.

Finocchiaro boasts the support of former State Senator and Methuen Mayor Sharon Pollard, and former Mayor Bill Manzi, as well as Mass Alliance – the largest coalition of progressive organizations in Massachusetts. "I'm proud to be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with the many local leaders who have stood up every day for our communities," she explained.

More than the endorsements, Finocchiaro says that her work in the community is the most important part of the campaign. "Every day since I announced, I've been out in the community talking about need for more good jobs with fair wages and benefits, support for our seniors and veterans, the need to make sure that big corporations and the very wealthy pay their fair share of taxes, and for expanding education and training options for all in our community…and taking a hard look at college tuition costs, and how we can bring them down so more generations aren't burdened with a lifetime of debt. That's why I'm earning the support of so many through this process, and that's why I'm confident that we win the primary in September."

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Feast of the Three Saints

Friday - Aug. 29, 2014
Feast Opens 6:00 PM
City Hall 6:30 PM
Opening Procession to Corpus Christi Parish at Holy Rosary Church
Main Stage | Bandstand 8:30 PM
Ray Massa's Eurorhythms- Italian Show Band
Tripoli Stage 9:00 PM
Eugie Castrillo & the Del Norte Band

Saturday - Aug. 30, 2014
1st Annual 5K Run for Scholars 8:00 AM
Feast Opens 12:00 PM
Feast Route 7:30 PM
Torchlight Parade - honors the Three Saints ending with fireworks and Cantata played by the St. Alfio Band
Main Stage | Bandstand 9:00 PM
Beatlejuice - Beatles Cover Band

Sunday - Aug. 31, 2014
Feast Opens 12:00 PM
Corpus Christi Parish at Holy Rosary Church 3:00 PM
Procession of the Statues of the Three Saints thru the Feast neighborhood
Society Building 7:00 PM
"Moment of Glory" with Benediction and the Cantata played by the St. Alfio Band amidst fireworks and showers of confetti
Main Bandstand 8:30 PM
B-Street Bombers

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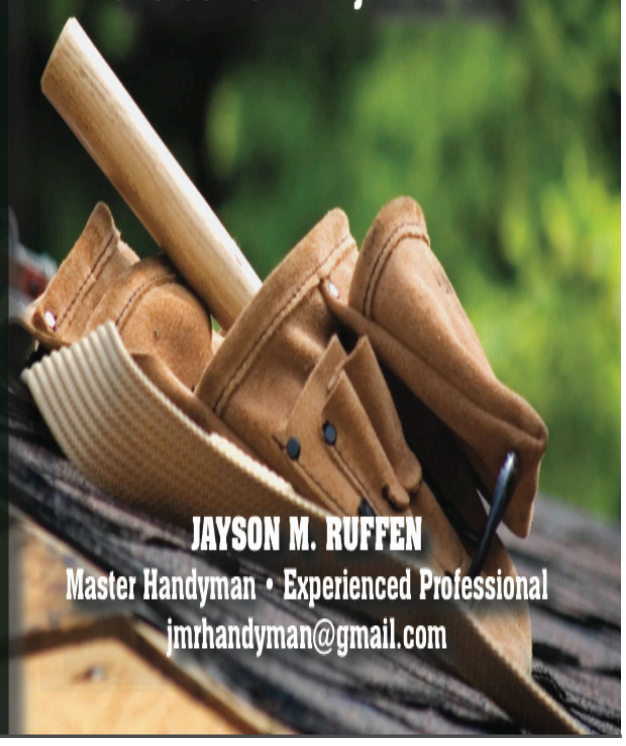

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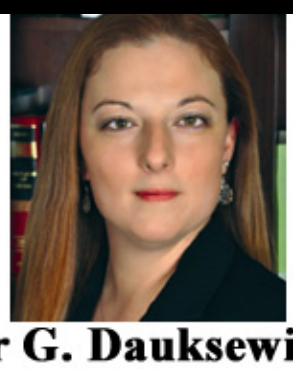

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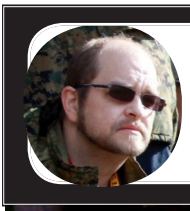

Paying Attention!
WITH TOM DUGGAN

How to Debunk a Socialist with a Few Easy Questions … or … What I Learned at Bread and Roses

With the Lawrence Bread and Roses Festival coming up next month, I wanted to share with my loyal readers a column I wrote back in September of 2003 and published on tommyduggan.com, just prior to starting The Valley Patriot newspaper. Bread and Roses is a socialist celebration of "workers" which vilifies business owners and capitalism. Here's how I entertain myself when at such events.

Socialists, Communists, Marxists and other liberty hating ideologues were out in full force at Lawrence's Bread and Roses Festival again this year.

It is a festival rooted in celebrating the formation of unions in Lawrence, and is usually hijacked by political groups with very unrealistic ideas. This is a real conversation with socialists who actually had a table at the Bread and Roses Festival on Labor Day.

The couple I met at the Socialists table told me that Capitalism and money were "evil".

"The goal of all good people is to do away with money and fight for equality," the woman told me.

Notice you are "good" if you have their approved ideas.

But, equality and individual liberty cannot coexist because if you are free to discriminate or spend your own money, that would be "unfair," it would result in "inequality."

"You see," the woman continued, "there is enough food to feed the whole world but because of money, those resources are concentrated among very few people … the rich are the only ones with access to it."

Really? So how do we survive without money?

"We can trade goods and services at the very basic level. We can grow our own food and trade what we make with our hands. Capitalism is evil, it deprives food and necessities to poor people."

As we chatted, I noticed a poster hailing Fidel Castro as a hero, so I asked her:

"If Capitalism is evil, is Communism … more specifically, is Fidel Castro evil?"

"In Cuba there is only poverty because of America. Our boycott is starving the people of Cuba," she answered.

I looked thoughtful and asked her about the lack of free speech in Cuba and the journalists who are now serving long prison terms for speaking out against Castro.

"Was that America's fault too?"

"America is no better. We imprison people for their beliefs all the time, you just don't hear about it," she said.

Resisting the urge to ask her which planet she was living on, I continued with my feigned receptiveness and continued to ask questions. It was fascinating.

"So, it's wrong if we do that?" I asked.

"Of course it is!" She seemed indignant.

"But it's OK if Cuba does it?"

She wasn't even hearing me, she just launched into a five-minute speech on how horribly oppressive America is and how we have no free speech in this country.

Mind you, all the while she is telling me this, she is in a public place, out in the open, with a table of anti American and anti-Capitalist literature blaming America for every problem in the world.

For the record, we do not imprison journalists for their beliefs. But I was not there to argue, I was there to learn … and

SOCIALISTS: PAGE 25

Legislature Goes Through – Not Around - Tough Issues

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

This session produced many important pieces of legislation: On-line voter registration and challenges to Citizens United that require a listing of the top contributors to Political Action Committees (PACs) on TV ads. This will help us sort through some smoke in this coming election; Increased legal and civil protections for the victims of abuse;

A responsible minimum wage increase supported by the business community that helps our working poor and circulates money in our local economy; Reforms for Welfare, Compounding Pharmacies, and the Probation Department; A balanced budget that will maintain our highest bond rating ever while also maintaining healthy reserves; An increase in local aid; Unemployment insurance reform; Spending which targets long-term substance abuse treatment, prevention and the suppression of narcotics distribution.

We could have stopped here and it would have been an extremely productive session. But we also put forward a balanced firearms bill whose goal is to reduce death through the use of illegal firearms.

The Massachusetts Gun Owners Action League (GOAL) ultimately supported this legislation because it targets the right areas while making it easier for legal firearm owners to legally possess, purchase, trade and sell their firearms. It forces the Commonwealth to participate in the National Criminal Instant Check System and it will require that all firearms purchasers be checked at the time of sale, an important measure to enable law enforcement to trace the illegal transfer of weapons to a source. Ultimately, it will greatly streamline the process for those who buy and sell firearms legally. The law will now hold blameless those who have applied for a license renewal within ninety days of its expiration date and otherwise reduce the civil penalty for forgetting to renew to $100 versus $500 previously.

We also put forth legislation responding to a Supreme Court decision outlawing buffer zones around women's health clinics. As a practicing Catholic, I believe that one abortion is too many and that those opposed to abortion have the right to free speech. However, we must also take into account that those using clinics have a right to safe entry and that abortions comprise approximately 8% of the health care provided at these clinics for low-income women. The new legislation is not problem- free but may serve as a workable compromise. Time will tell.

Representative Campbell serves as Vice Chair on the Committee on Election Laws and also serves on the Committees on Ways and Means and Public Safety. She Represents the Cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the Legislature. She is up for reelection this year but has no primary opponent.

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Readers React to Market Basket Fiasco

The news media is finally starting to figure out that the real story in the Market Basket debacle isn't the employee revolt; it's the customer revolt.

For more than four weeks, the non-union employees of Market Basket have picketed, some have walked out, while others go to work and picket on their lunch break.

As of the time we went to print, Market Basket was still open for business. Food was still on the shelves and cashiers are ready to ring up your order but, the vast majority of customers have chosen to shop elsewhere, even at higher prices.

The Valley Patriot asked our readers their thoughts on the Market Basket saga. While it is not scientific, nearly 90% of our readers said that they will not return as Market Basket shoppers if Market Basket continues without Artie T. Fewer, about 60%, said that if the company merges or is sold to another supermarket chain they will not patronize the new chain.

Here are some of our reader's responses:

DJ Beauregard, Methuen - The disconnected and tone deaf members of Market Basket's Board of Directors simply do not get it. How many more millions of dollars do they intend to flush down the drain before they realize that they could give away groceries and we would still boycott their company? We, the customers, are loyal to the workers who remain fiercely loyal to their beloved CEO. Also, I wish the new CEOs the best of luck with their job fairs. No one else out there would want to apply for a job with a company that is on life support. If the company doesn't have the financial means to make payroll now, how do they intend to pay all of their new employees - with bubble gum and Oreo cookies? Oh wait, they're nearly out of those too. The solution is simple: Bring back Arthur T. Demoulas! We won't come back until he is running the show.

Diane Henrick, North Andover, shops at the store on Amherst Street in Nashua, NH. - The tone that the media is using in the reports regarding the Market Basket protest is WAY OFF! The employees HAVE BEEN WORKING if they are scheduled, and when off the clock, spending their time in front of the stores! What the BOD fails to realize is that it DOES

NOT MATTER how many of the employees report to work because WE THE CUSTOMERS will remain on the front lines protesting and shopping at other food chains! So let the employees stock those shelves and do the jobs they were hired to but the BOD needs to know that the food will remain on the shelves collecting dust, the produce will rot, the meats and seafood will expire and they will be donating the baked goods and bread to the local food pantries and shelters! So let me be clear, the blame does not fall in the laps of the employees, but that of the BOD. Their feeble attempt in making anything but that, is laughable, and an insult to the employees and consumers! If the BOD wants their employees to return to work and the customers shopping in the stores, it is very simple...Arthur T. Demoulas is reinstated as the CEO!

Tracy Harris Carrigg (lives in Bradford previously shopped at the Westgate (newer) store, Seabrook Plaza (newer) store and works in Billerica and shops there as well.) So in the end, when all the paperwork is finalized, I along with thousands of others like me will not go back unless the company is fully safe in Arthur T's control.

Dave Lacroix, Lawrence - I am on a permanent boycott. Any company so dysfunctional from the top down, that can be held hostage by its employees cannot be trusted, and I cannot encourage that sort of culture by supporting it. Will the employees upend the local economy again next year if healthcare costs go up? Or if they don't receive the type of cost of living increase they would like? I am out. I feel bad for the suppliers of MB who are getting crushed through no wrongdoing of their own.

Dorothy Duggan-Incropera, Lawrence - Arthur S. has been looking to sell the company for years. Last year he visited with a large food wholesaler and told them he would be able to make a commitment once Arthur T. was gone. Without Arthur T. there will be no Market Basket.

George Tournas, Methuen - MB as we know it, is gone, and the rich boys continue to beat up the employees which is driving the customers away, I may never be a regular MB shopper again I am that mad at both A & A.

Jack Roy, Haverhill - Well, I have talked to sooo many people who have families and they are struggling to find produce, etc., and are paying thru the nose which is killing their budgets. Imagine the elderly folks on fixed incomes? Who is suffering now? Nobody is saying anything about these people.

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~ Tom Duggan

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Mayor Rivera Begins Fire Chief Search, Looks Outside Dept.

Tom Duggan
VALLEY PATRIOT PUBLISHER

Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera has begun the process of finding a permanent fire chief to lead the Lawrence Fire Department.

Rivera named the members of what he calls his "Fire Chief Search Committee", and says he has began the first stages of the search process this week. The function of the committee is not to pour through the applications and make recommendations based on who applies, as most search committees have in the past. Rather, Rivera wants this committee to recruit candidates for the position, sending a clear signal that he is looking outside the department for new leadership.

Due to a move by former mayor Willie Lantigua, the fire chief's position is no longer covered under civil service protection and Rivera does not need to look within the department to appoint a new chief.

Lantigua removed the job from civil service by petitioning the legislature (with support of the city council) in 2011 to target (then) Fire Chief Brian Murphy who had blown the whistle on what he called a "critically dangerous levels of fire protection" as the result of Lantigua laying off 24 firefighters. (STORY)

Mayor Rivera, a city councilor at the time, supported Lantigua's efforts to remove Murphy, but Murphy resigned before Lantigua had the chance. Lantigua appointed Jack Bergeron as acting chief, who retired two years later. Rivera named Captain John Walsh as acting chief this year during his first week in office.

Rivera's new Fire Chief Search Committee is made up of nine members, including residents and city officials that he says will play a key role in the process to conduct a search for the next Lawrence Fire Chief.

"They will be responsible for recruiting the most impressive candidates, and narrowing down the selection. The end result will be a fire chief that is qualified and committed to the safety of our city and its residents."

Rivera says the search committee kicked off their effort with a meeting this week to outline a process and timeline for their work. This included reviewing the city ordinance related to the fire chief and the duties associated with the position, developing a strategy to recruit a robust pool of candidates, and determining clear evaluation criteria by which to rate candidates. In addition, the Committee will consider holding a forum at a later stage in the process so that the public has an opportunity to question the final candidates and weigh in on the process.

The Mayor says he anticipates a four to six month process to recruit and hire the next fire chief to Lawrence.

The committee members are: Council President, Modesto Maldonado; Lisa Torrisi; Chief of Staff, Mark Ianello; Finance Director, Frank Bonet; Personnel Director and resident, Richard Shaffer; Former Lawrence Fire Chief and resident, Manny Gonzalez; Lawrence Firefighter and Resident, Lesly Medina; resident, Tom Murphy; Cesar Camargo, Business Owner and resident.

Kathy's Lawrence Notebook

The Perils of Being a Welfare City

Kathy Runge
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

The title of this column doesn't refer to the residents, rather to the city itself. For the city of Lawrence, money is no problem. After all, the state gives us what we need. The city lets undocumented "charities" use vacant school buildings free of charge, utilities included, with no liability insurance. City workers in general have no incentive to maximize their departments' revenue or become more efficient.

We discussed the example of occupancy permits in the Inspectional Services Department in the June column; I hope they're devising a plan to ensure a higher level of compliance from landlords that doesn't involve punishing those who comply with current laws. The prevailing attitude in many city departments is to take money from the easy marks, the law abiding citizens who pay the required fees voluntarily and whose checks don't bounce, and to let the scofflaws slide. This seems to occur irrespective of the administration.

We often hear this complaint levelled against government workers in general, but I have to believe that If Lawrence needed to support itself to the same extent as the average city, departments may have more incentive to do their jobs well.

Take dog licenses as an example. In the year 2013/2014, Lawrence had 272 licensed dogs. The licensing period is from April 1 – March 31. As of July 23 of this year, there were 171 licensed dogs in the city. Methuen has the same licensing period and sold a total of 1,161 licenses in 2013/2014, and 1,042 through July 29 of this year. Lowell had 2,031 licensed dogs last calendar year, and has 1,607 licenses this year through July 30. Assuming Lawrence has at least as many dogs as Methuen, our city lost out on at least $13K last year. Similar to occupancy permits, this is a matter of public safety as well as revenue.

The example of dog licenses is just one among many. If Lawrence had to support itself, I'm sure we would change many behaviors; one that comes to mind is the excessive amount of money spent on litigation. Bright spots are the new Water Commissioner, Brian Pena, who is making strides in collecting unpaid water bills. One has to wonder why these unpaid bills were allowed to lapse to begin with. Another is the DPW Director, John Isensee, who works hard to get the most out of his budget.

In general, there seems to be no incentive for individual departments to keep their costs down or improve efficiency. We need to push to become more efficient in city departments. If one looks at the city of Lowell's budget for FY15, available online, you will see that departments enumerate their accomplishments in the previous fiscal year. They give a summary of new services, time or money saving efficiencies, reasons for budget increases, and a quantitative assessment of their performance from year to year. Lawrence should consider following this outline in future budgets.

Most think that "free money" from the state is a good thing, but there's a downside to all of the free stuff, namely a loss

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NEMLEC: FROM PAGE 7

these weapons.

So if I go to a domestic call and there are two people at the domestic, I want four cops. If I go somewhere and you have a knife, I want a handgun. If you have a handgun, I want a rifle, if you have a rifle I want an armored vehicle. Law enforcement always needs to be one step ahead with the intent of keeping people safe."

TOM DUGGAN: I'm a supporter of NEMLEC. I know a lot of the guys on the unit, and I understand that we need them because the cops are outgunned. But, when we look at this NEMLEC situation, they won't even tell us what they are spending. They've created this semi-private, public organization and because politicians are in charge, the valid concern is that it can be abused. What is your experience?

CHIEF SOLOMON: "I'm glad you brought that up because Methuen has been a charter member of the North East Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council since over thirty years ago. I sit on their board because all chiefs sit on their board. NEMLEC will not come into a community without the police chief calling them in. So, my mayor, my city council president, my local activists like Linda Soucy, they cannot call NEMLEC and say 'please come in, we have a situation'."

Based on their charter, when NEMLEC responds to Methuen as they have on many occasions, they are under the control and direction of the local police chief.

Asked about some of the charges by the ACLU and other organizations that the NEMLEC unit is a rogue, paramilitary organization that can go into any community and do what they want to do, Solomon said what he has been reading are only "half-truths".

CHIEF SOLOMON: "They are giving you half-truths. It is a conglomerate of fifty-four different police departments and two sheriff's departments. However, if I called them and said 'I have a barricaded subject and I need a SWAT team to respond', when they arrive there's a SWAT commander. NEMLEC has three police chiefs, so one of them will arrive and ask me 'what do you want us to do'. I could say, 'I want to negotiate and I want everyone else to stand back' and they will.

When I feel like I can't get any further, I will ask them for their expert advice. They will give us the advice, but the call is mine to make as the local police chief. If I decide not to go in, they don't go in. You can be comfortable to know that your local city chief is actually controlling what's going on."

NEXT MONTH: *Chief Solomon talks about the drug epidemic and the overdoses in the Valley. Paying Attention! With Tom Duggan airs on 980WCAP in Lowell on Saturday morning's from 10AM to noon. You can listen live on line at www.980wcap.com.*

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TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK

SALISBURY FREE CASH? - Why would Town Manager Neil Harrington and Sewer Commissioner/Selectmen transfer $460,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund (SEF) – and name it "free cash" when it absolutely is not free cash? On May 19th voters spoke up at Town Meeting saying Salisbury had special "Step 3" Federal Grant conditions in order to receive the $18M grants for the $18M sewer system. Salisbury agreed to the conditions to charge sewer users based on their users actual water consumption (the town is not doing this) and when there is excess in the SEF, it is to be used to reduce the next year's rate.

The money in SEF is only for operation, maintenance and equipment replacement to maintain the existing sewer system. Neil Harrington said it was for "proposed planning". Our research shows that it isn't. The voters made their decision based on Neil Harrington's information and took your sewer user money. Previously, the town raised sewer user rates and claimed there was a $28,000 deficit in the SEF when in fact, according to Department of Revenue, Salisbury had over $24M. Why is there an adjustment removing $22M from the SEF and where did the millions go? Salisbury residents need to demand accountability from their town officials.

TRIB ATTACK ON BADDOUR

Last month, the Eagle Tribune made a big deal out of former State Senator Steve Baddour making recommendations to the state Department of Probation while he was in office. The story came about as the result of the corruption probe of the state's Dept. of Probation. I took a look at the documents in the O'Brien corruption case, and thought I would share a list of other elected officials who also made recommendations to the Department of Probation during the time of the corruption. Their names, oddly enough, never made the daily paper's story. Sen. Frederick Berry, Barry Finegold, Rep. Brad Hill, Senator Tolman, Rep. Dempsey, Rep Nangle, Rep. Linsky, Essex County Sheriff Frank Cousins, Rep. Golden, Marty Meehan, Rep. Colleen Garry, Rep. William Lantigua, Haverhill Mayor Jim Fiorenitni, Rep. Jim Lyons, Senate President Therese Murray, Rep. Jim Micili, Rep. Costello, Sen. Sue Tucker, and Rep. David Torrisi just to name a few. The point is not to shame these politicians, as there is no evidence that any of them did anything wrong. The point is, that after pouring over 195 pages of public officials who made recommendations for hiring at the state Dept. of Probation, I find it very interesting that the Trib took great pains to highlight only ONE former official, and I think you should too. Baddour was never accused and never charged in connection with any corruption probe.

THE DEMOCRAT WAR ON WOMEN

The Democrat Party and democrat candidates in Massachusetts like to brag that they are the party of women, the party of minorities, the party of diversity. But just take a look at what the Democrat Party is doing in his year's state races. First you have a race for Attorney General where the democrats had one chance at their convention to nominate a woman (Maura Healey). Instead, they nominated the rich white man, Warren Tolman. They had one chance to nominate a female nominee for governor in Martha Coakley. Instead, they nominated the rich, white man, Steve Grossman. In the 14th Essex District there is a young, first term female, State Rep. Diana DiZoglio. Dizoglio is being challenged by two men for the Democrat nomination (Phil Decologero and Oscar Camargo). The 6th Congressional District race is hysterical when you think about Congressman John Tierney, a man who said two years ago that the person who holds this seat in Congress should be the person who can best represent women. Except this year, Marisa DeFranco is running for his job and suddenly, his philosophy that women need better representation in Congress is out the window. In fact, the Democrat party recruited two other male candidates in that race to split the anti-Tierney vote on Election Day to stop Marisa Defranco, (John Devine and Seth Moulten). In the race to replace Senator Barry Finegold (who is running for State Treasurer), it will be interesting to see if the pro-diversity, pro-minority Democrats walk the walk. In this race you have not only a woman seeking the Democrat nomination, but you have a woman who is also a Latina (Doris Ortiz). You also have a male Latino (Pavel Payano) vying for that seat against white woman Barbara L'Italian. Let's see if Democrats in Andover, Lawrence, Dracut and Tewksbury really care about diversity and minorities when it comes to representing them in the Senate. My money says they vote for the white person in this race (Barbara L'Italian), the rich white man (John Tierney) in the Congressional race, and in the Attorney General's race, the rich white man (Warren Tolman) over the minority candidates. And when that happens, you should all ask yourself: does the Democrat party really stand for diversity and minorities? Or is that just rhetoric they use to vilify the other party.

HAVERHILL MAYOR WELCOMES TEN NEW POLICE OFFICERS

Last month, Mayor James J. Fiorentini congratulated the city's ten new police officers. The mayor was joined by Representative Brian Dempsey, who provided the additional state funding of $2.4 million to help the city cover some of the old Hale Hospital debt. The mayor has directed some of the revenue to hire new police officers in order to maintain a healthy level of police presence in the city. Last year, the city's budget added five new police officers, bringing the total to the highest number of police officers over the past five years. It takes time to recruit, train and swear in new police officers. With the swearing in of 10 additional police officers, this brings the total number of officers to 89, the highest number the city has had in years. There are three more positions available, which will bring the total police officer staffing number to 92. The recent swearing in ceremony was the largest since Mayor Fiorentini took office.

The Police Officers are: Chery Victoria, Bethany Boyle, Christopher Ryan, Christopher Matatall,

Patrick Menzie, Zachary Phair, Kyle McCann, Shawn O'Brien, Jared Brady and Sean Harrison.

ANDOVER - ALZHEIMER'S WALK

The 2014 Northeastern Massachusetts Walk to End Alzheimer's® is set for Sunday, September 21 at Brickstone Square in Andover. Organizers expect a record turnout and have already opened online registration for the event.

"The Northeastern Massachusetts Walk will also increase public awareness about this difficult disease. The Walk committee is already working hard to make it a powerful experience for everyone who participates."

The event will begin at 8:30am. Included is an opening ceremony and special tribute to those who have experienced Alzheimer's. Other highlights for the Walk include free refreshments, children's activities, the opportunity to connect with local service providers, and the opportunity to learn more about the services the Alzheimer's Association provides.

For information or to sign-up to participate in the Northeastern Massachusetts Walk to End Alzheimer's, call 800-272-3900 or visit www.alzwalkMANH.org.

SENATOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Sen. Kathleen O'Connor Ives' upcoming office hours in North Andover

Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives will be hosting office hours in North Andover on Friday, August 15 between 1 and 2pm. Office hours will be held at the North Andover Senior Center, Activity Room. Appointments are not required. For any questions, please contact her office at (617) 722-1604 or by emailing Christopher.Power@masenate.gov

WASABI JAPANESE STEAKHOUSE AND SUSHI LAUNCHES COMMUNITY NIGHTS TO GIVE BACK

Being a part of a community means more than just bring present. It means understanding the needs of others and making an effort to help in any way available. The most effective way to do so is to team up with others for a greater cause. This is exactly what Wasabi Japanese Steak House in Salem, NH is doing with the launch of Community Nights at the restaurant.

Monday nights are Community Night at Wasabi Japanese Steakhouse. This means that different eligible non-profit organizations will be the host on a Monday night of their choosing, and each patron that hands in a Community Night Flyer will be donating 15% of their bill to that non-profit. This allows Wasabi to promote non-profit organizations which work so hard to help the community and Wasabi Steak House is happy to support the efforts of the organizations.

Wasabi Japanese Steak House is located at 236 N. Broadway, Salem, NH. Please email lisa@drinkwaterproductions.com. If you know a non-profit organization you would like to see involved, please pass along this information and help support the cause. For more information, call Wasabi Steak House at 603-890-1688 or visit their website at www.nhwasabisteakhouse.com

About Drinkwater Productions: Drinkwater Productions LLC, based in Exeter, NH, is a full-service event planning and promotions company, working to help its clients realize profits through unique marketing opportunities. To learn more about Drinkwater Productions, please visit www.drinkwaterproductionsevents.com.

MASS FISCAL ALLIANCE ON DISCLOSURE ACT

Last month, the conference committee charged with reconciling the House and Senate versions of a bill altering several aspects of Massachusetts campaign finance law released its report, and the resulting legislation leaves much to be desired. Today, the House voted 140-10 for its passage. While the debate has focused on the worthy goal of increasing the disclosure of donors to Super PACs, we have serious concerns regarding the impact that this bill will have on non-Super PAC entities — especially non-profits — who will now be required to meet the same donor disclosure requirements. Specifically, section 25 calls for the public disclosure of the top 5 donors to any non-profit that engages in "electioneering communications." Currently, OCPF already requires non-profits that affirmatively solicit donations for electioneering communications to disclose the names of donors who contributed in response to that solicitation. This bill goes much further, however, and requires non-profits that engage in electioneering communications to disclose their top 5 donors during the previous 12 months — even if those top donors were never solicited for donations to support those electioneering communications.

"Parts of this bill are possibly unconstitutional. On the whole, it's very troubling to see lawmakers make such transparent attempts to protect their own re-election bids, with the elections only a few months away by discouraging participation on important policy debates." stated Paul Craney, the group's executive director. The Disclosure Act also failed to address the union loophole that allows unions, including out of state unions, to donate more than the individual limit to candidates."

Electioneering communications are not the same as independent expenditures. Independent expenditures call for the defeat or election of a candidate. In sharp contrast, electioneering communications — any communication that merely mentions a candidate and is distributed within 90 days of an election — are educational in nature. They are limited to discussing policy issues, and are prohibited from calling for defeat or election of the named candidate. We support further disclosure of independent expenditures and Super PAC donations. But electioneering communications — particularly those made by non-profit policy advocacy groups — serve an entirely separate educational purpose.

"More than fifty years ago, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in NAACP v. Alabama to protect the identity of members of non-profits if the non-profits engage in policy debates, they did so during the civil rights era and today, the Massachusetts legislature voted to advance a law that violates these important rights and freedoms," concluded Craney.

LOWELL POLLING LOCATIONS

Thursday, July 24, 2014 the City of Lowell Election Commission voted to relocate eleven of the city's twenty polling locations. These changes will ensure that polling locations are handicap accessible and compliant with state regulations. The City of Lowell Election Commission

CONT. UNDER FREDDIE

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Politicians like Deval Patrick say people who advocate for voter ID are "racist". Tell that to the Dominicans in Lawrence who have to show an ID when they vote for their Dominican president here in the US. You can also tell that to Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera, Sate Reps. Marcos Devers and Frank Moran. They have seen and experienced the voter fraud in Lawrence for years. You know, the voter fraud that Democrat Party leaders say does not exist.

collaborated with the City of Lowell Disability Commission, neighborhood leaders and community organizations to provide the best possible polling locations for the voters of Lowell. The Election Commission will continue to make improvements to polling locations to guarantee student safety, equal accessibility, and increased voter participation.

All voters impacted by these changes will be notified by mail prior to Election Day. Below is a link to an online updated list of all polling locations throughout the City of Lowell. Sign up for future alerts, notices, and broadcasts from the Election and Census Office via the following web page: www.lowellma.gov/citymanager/neighborhood/Pages/General/City-Notifications.aspx.

BECOME A LICENSED TEACHER IN MA - (Learn How to Add an Additional License), Marlborough. The Collaborative for Educational Services (formerly the Hampshire Educational Collaborative) offers free information sessions from 4:30 to 5:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month. "Welcome Wednesdays" drop-in sessions are designed to answer questions about educator licensure and assist prospective educators in mapping a path to attaining career goals. The next session will be held August 6th at the Embassy Suites, located at 123 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA 01752.

The Collaborative is also excited to announce that the CES Licensure Programs is now partnering with the UMassFive College Federal Credit Union to provide loans to students enrolled in the Licensure Programs. Financing is also available for those pursuing advanced graduate credit through CES's higher education partner, Fitchburg State University.

The Collaborative offers Educator Licensure courses year round using a hybrid online format with three face-to-face sessions held in Marlborough, MA. Master's Degree and CAGS options are available. For more information, visit www.TeachInMass.org or call 413-586-4900.

The Collaborative for Educational Services is a non-profit educational service agency that has been serving schools, school districts, educators, communities, and students with diverse learning needs since 1974. The agency, which serves member districts in Hampshire and Franklin Counties, recently changed its name to better reflect the scope of its work.

LAWRENCE EXCHANGE CLUB

NOTEBOOK: PAGE 37

Michaud Insurance in Methuen Buys Nancy Greenwood Insurance

A.P Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc. is pleased to announce its purchase of the Nancy Greenwood Insurance Agency. All current clients of the Greenwood Agency will be moved to Michaud Insurance Agency's location of 105 Haverhill Street, Methuen, MA, just a few doors down from the Greenwood Agency. The Greenwood Agency will keep its current office, located at 11 Haverhill Street, Methuen, MA, open until the end of August when it will close its doors for good.

"We are very pleased to be purchasing such a reputable company as the Nancy Greenwood Insurance Agency and look forward to providing its clients with the same excellent customer service they have come to expect with Nancy. Our goal with this purchase was to make it as easy as possible of a transition for all her clients as we are run on the same core values as Nancy and located just a few blocks away," says Trudy Lawler, President of A.P Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc.

Michaud Insurance has been in the Merrimack Valley since 1979 when Armand P. Michaud opened the agency. Trudy (Michaud) Lawler took the agency over from her father, and her daughter, Tricia Sabulis, joined the agency in 2006 to continue the family tradition. Michaud Insurance specializes in personal and commercial insurance products including home, auto, and business. The sale will bring additional benefits to Greenwood Agency clients including New Hampshire insurance products, more markets for business insurance, a bi-lingual staff member, convenient hours, online processing and convenient, free parking.

Nancy Greenwood, President of Nancy Greenwood Insurance Agency, Inc. will be retiring after 33 years in business. "It is with pleasure that I retire from the insurance industry and sell my agency to A.P Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc. After much thought, I decided to retire and sell the agency to Michaud because I know that, for decades to come, they will continue to provide professional, yet personal service to my clients. I know I leave my business in good hands. After 33 years of providing personalized service, it was prudent to entrust my clients protection to another generation of insurance professionals" says Nancy "It has been an extreme pleasure working in the Merrimack Valley with my clients and their families."

A.P Michaud Insurance Agency Inc. is located at 105 Haverhill Street, Methuen, MA and 138 River Road, Suite 107, Andover, MA 01810. They can be reached at 978-685-2549 or you can view their website at www.michaudinsurance.com and www.bestinsurancemerrimackvalley.com.

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WCAP AT THE LOWELL FOLK FESTIVAL

The GREAT Warren Shaw interviews State Rep. Tommy Golden on WCAP's Saturday Morning live!

Valley Patriot Publisher Tom Duggan interviews congressional candidate Ann Wofford on Paying Attention! during the early hours of the folk fest.

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~ Methuen Police Chief Joseph Solomon
SEE STORY - PAGE 6

WCAP's legendary Weatherman Al Kaprielian is never without his Valley Patriot. Al can also be seen on WBIN.

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John Macdonald
VALLEY PATRIOT LOWELL COLUMNIST

For some time now it has bothered me how the tide has turned against the classic blue dog, John F. Kennedy Democrats. The tide I describe isn't a Republican tide, but rather a Progressive tide that has overtaken the Democratic Party. A battle within the Democratic Party that by all accounts seems to leave JFK Democrats in the dust and forgotten. JFK Democrats are chastised, if not just blatantly ignored to benefit an extreme left wing, Socialist, hyper oversensitive political correctness wave, called Progressives. Progressive leaders like President Obama, Senator Warren, Senator Markey and Governor Patrick, just don't have any tolerance at all for fellow Democrats who are unwilling to subscribe to their brand and wing of the Democratic Party… and it shows.

JFK Democrats are what I classify as Democrats who fight for the working person, fight for strong unions that put people to work. They love good businesses that employ people and support them. They understand that welfare is a hand up not a federal giveaway program to secure future voters. JFK Democrats are those who have traditionally fought against unfair business practices and are fiercely loyal proud Americans who bleed for the red, white and blue. JFK Democrats have proven to fight for Democracy around the world and are proud of their country and what we represent.

Progressives, well they have transformed the Democratic Party into a party that fights for the non-worker vs. the worker. They fight against business vs. supporting business. They fight for socialism and are staunch fighters against capitalism. They prefer to turn against allies in the world like Israel and support terrorist organizations like Hamas. They wish to co-exist and negotiate with terrorists, rather than eliminate them. They fight for illegal immigration vs. supporting those who chose to abide by the law to obtain citizenship. They fight to feed and house illegal immigrant children vs. taking care the less fortunate children and Veterans here in America. They are ashamed of American exceptionalism vs. being proud of what has made us exceptional and a beacon of leadership in the world.

So where has the JFK Democrat gone? I suspect they are still among us, but over the last few decades have become the silent majority. A silent majority in the Democratic Party that has stood by and watched the minority Progressive wave slowly plant its roots, while at the same time willingly accepting unwarranted criticism and being cast aside by the vocal Progressive activists.

Why? I'm not sure.

I can say that it is time for those of you who still believe in the JFK branch of the party to get vocal and fight. Take your party back, before the Democratic Party implodes completely. Embrace and recruit candidates that have shown the ability to lead and deliver results, while proudly displaying their zeal to make local, state and federal government better.

Are you looking for an example? Are you finding it difficult to identify a JFK Democrat these days? I can point to a few like Lowell City Councilor Rita Mercier, State Representative David Nangle and State Representative Tom Golden. However if you seek a new face, I'll offer up someone who should be recruited for higher office and leadership in the Democratic Party. That person is Lowell Mayor Rodney Elliott.

Mayor Elliott is a Democrat. He's shown almost two decades of fiscal discipline, an ability to challenge unfair practices in the community, and a leader who emulates the principals of the classic JFK Democrat. Whether it is at the forefront of demanding new economic development practices to put Lowellians to work or fighting against noncommonsensical approaches of wasting the taxpayer's money, Mayor Elliott has proven to be a force to be reckoned with. He's led the City through the tragic Branch Street fire, he's led us through gang violence issues and shootings, he's demanded more police on the streets and has shown support for union's that have done right by the people they represent. He's fought against the vocal Progressive minority that have publically shown him disrespect and made unfounded, untrue and reckless remarks toward his leadership and personal life. He's stood tall through it all.

So where would I like to see Mayor Rodney Elliott within the Democratic Party in years to come? Perhaps the State Senate? Perhaps as a State Representative? Honestly where I would really like to see Rodney Elliott, a JFK Democrat, is in the United States Congress. Congresswoman Tsongas will not run forever. When she finally decides to hang it up, perhaps Rodney Elliott could be recruited to not only represent the 3rd Congressional District, but represent the JFK wing of the Democratic Party?

It's time Blue Dogs… Bite back!

John MacDonald is the President/CEO of Big Decisions, LLC, which is a management consulting business that concentrates on offering strategic advice on Marketing, Public Relations, Economic/ Business Development and Social Media. John has a long career of success, achieving record results in the communications field and spending over 20 years managing marketing budgets, driving the bottom line in the financial services, restaurant, retail and real estate industries.

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Methuen's Brittany Baldi PART II Doing What You Love to Do

Last month, Methuen's Brittani Baldi talked about how she started in show business and her time on MTV's "Are You the One" (AYTO). Shortly after our interview, Baldi was flown to Los Angeles to shoot an update of the show in a "where are they now" type of TV reunion. The show will focus on Amber and Ethan (one of the perfect matches) who are now engaged. Amber is currently pregnant. The cast of the show held a baby shower and celebrated on a show that airs on September 22, 2014 on MTV.

Here is part two of our interview with Brittany:

Has your appearance on MTV given you an advantage on getting other acting or modeling jobs?

"Since the TV show I wouldn't say MTV has given me an edge. Honestly it's almost like I was never on the MTV show. I have more than 26,000 followers on Instagram and Twitter and I love my fans. It's been a great experience, I learned a lot, but as far as getting work from the show? No, not at all."

Brittany did another TV show called "The Choice". It aired on Fox and was a one-episode thing back in 2012. She also appeared on "Is She Really Going Out With Him?"

What's your dream job?

"I just want to have a job where I can wake up every day and be in love with it. I know a lot of people want to be famous. To me it's not about that. I don't care if I'm famous. I want a job that doesn't seem like a job. Sure, being in the spotlight is great, but at the end of the day I want a job that is fun."

"I currently do a TV show that airs on NESN at 9:30 on Saturday mornings called Wicked Bites. The show is run by Pat and Scott Whitley, they are awesome guys. I love them to death. I go in and do their radio show on Sundays sometimes. Their TV show focuses on local eateries, food and restaurants. We actually just shot a segment at Mann Orchards the other night. I love that job, that's my dream job. I want to do TV, entertainment, and/or sports hosting. I'd love to work for an NHL network like EPSN, maybe do the red carpet for "E!", I'd really love to do that. That's actually my long term goal."

What do you do for Wicked Bytes?

"For Wicked Bites I focus mostly on their sports segments. I get to go to charity events and I've interviewed everyone on the Bruins roster, the Red Sox, some of the UFC fighters like John Howard. I actually got to get in the ring with him and box. It's a really fun experience, I love it. Pat and Scott have been really good to me, it's a dream job. It's not work. I show up and I forget that I'm even at work. This is what I want to do full time. This is what I have been working towards."

Brittany said that young people looking to get into show business have to have a positive mindset.

"If you don't have a positive mindset, you aren't going to get anywhere. Self-esteem is huge. You need a backbone; people around you are constantly pushing you. But you also have to be willing to take the bumps and the bruises. If you are going to go into that casting office, you have to go in knowing that you are going to get 100 no's before you get that big "yes". You can't get down on yourself. You have to realize there's really tough competition, and a no today could be a yes tomorrow, because sometimes the people cast in a show or a movie end up not working out and if you have a positive attitude, people are going to remember you. You might get a call from someone you thought rejected you. It's all about keeping at it and not getting down on yourself."

Methuen's Brittany Baldi (center) with the cast of MTV's "Are You The One" will air on September 22nd

"I'd also say, staying in school is really important. Even if your not in school, if you are working a family business or trained for a profession, you always have to have something to fall back on. If you don't have that and you don't make it big, what the hell do you do then? My dad used to always tell me to make sure I finished my degree because you don't know what's going to happen."

"I think the biggest advice I can give anyone is, do what you love to do. Don't become a doctor just because you know they make a lot of money. Become a doctor because you truly want to help people and it's something you will love to do. I can tell Tom, you love what you do in journalism because the way you are asking your questions. I can tell you really are interested in getting to know me and hearing my story. To me that's what success really is because, how many people don't get to do what makes them happy?"

NEXT MONTH PART III

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- Frances "Fran" Jacobs
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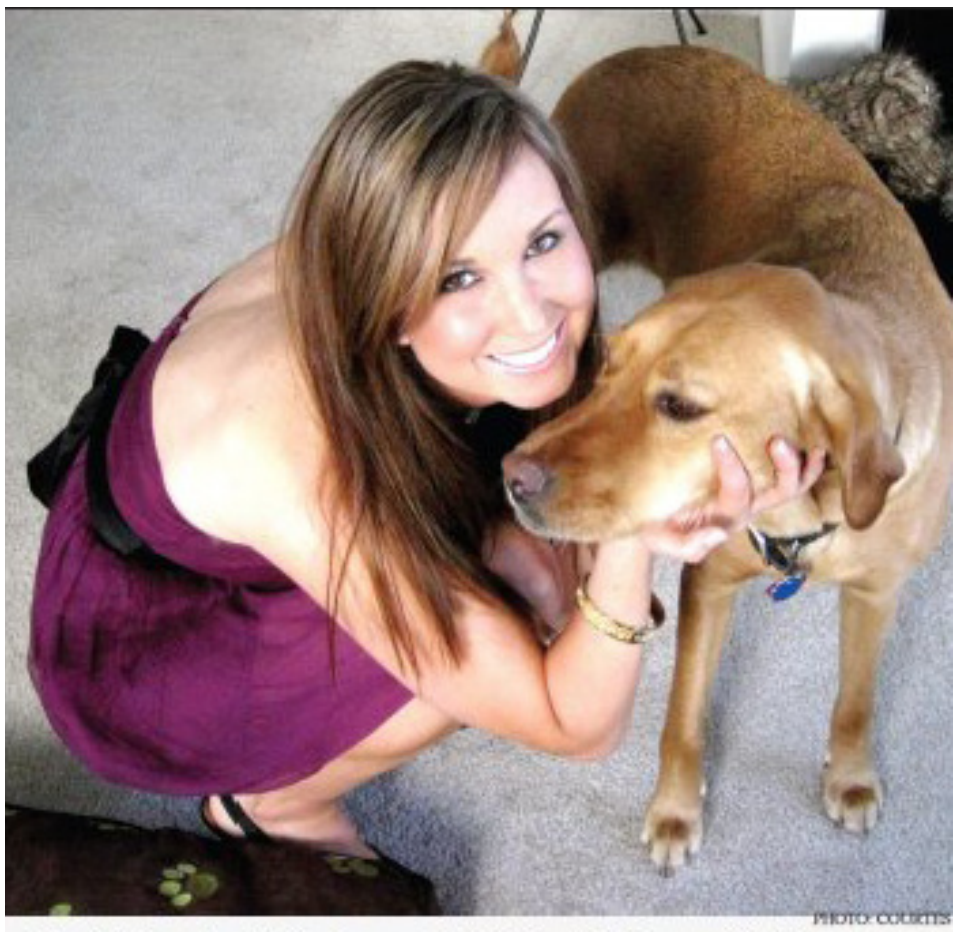
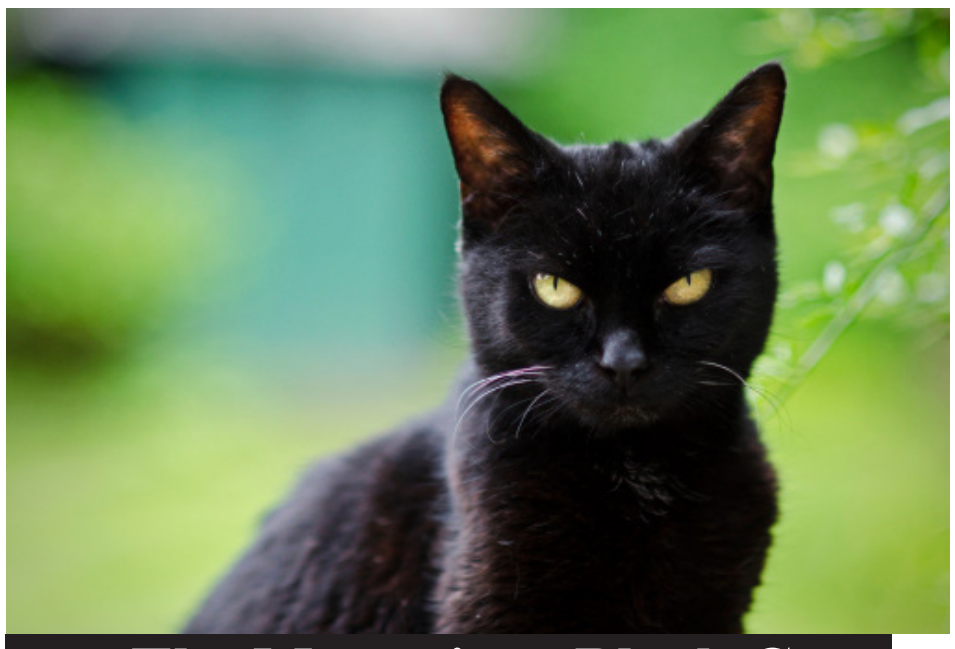


The Valley Patriot's PuppyGirl Kate Whitney with Honey. Kate and Honey rescue puppies and older dogs from abuse and neglect. Please adopt a shelter dog or foster a dog looking for a permanent home! For more information you can email One Tail at A Time Dog Rescue in Haverhill: onetail@comcast.net. One Tail is always in need of financial donations and items for rescued animals.



The Mysterious Black Cat

Tracey Zysk
VALLEY PATRIOT KITTY CAT COLUMNIST

Many people have these crazy notions that black cats represent the dark side, bring bad luck or even represent death. However, if you go back and research the history of the "Black Cat" you will be surprised to learn the opposite.

Black cats have been around since Christ. This is a fact. Black cats are a living representation of Satan. This is fiction.

In fact, in Britain and Japan, having a black cat cross your path, is considered good luck, whereas if you live in the USA or several European countries, it is bad luck to have a black cat walk by.

I have to say, the Brits and Japanese are way better people than us on this one. Seriously, people actually do not adopt a precious animal who can offer so much unconditional love, simply because his fur is black? Really, people.... think about how ridiculous that is.

Let's look into this a little more. Cats are sassy, cats are independent and cats are in their own way a mystery.

Why?

Well, it comes down to their mannerisms and their personalities.

They can be aloof, they can be sneaky and they most certainly will make their own decisions on their own time. Should this be associated as they are mean ? No.

Does this represent they are uncontrollable? No.

Are these behaviors you should consider as reasons not to adopt them? Absolutely not !

The next time you are strolling through a shelter, at an adoption event or even looking at cats available on a reputable on line adoption site, notice what you see the most of. Yes, Black Cats. It is very sad, actually it is heartbreaking that a cats are overlooked in our shelters because of the color of their fur.

To learn a little more about " The Black Cat" stop into the following event:

Black Cat Day at Ciao Bow Wow

Saturday September 13 from 10 – noon

1109 Osgood Street Suite 9, N. Andover, MA

- Fun galore, with raffles, contests.
- Reiki for people and pets.
- List of shelters with black cats waitng for adoption.
- All to bring attention to the plight of
- Black cats in animal rescue shelters.

Valley Patriot's Doggie Hero Bruce Tarr Does it Again

Tracey Zysk
VALLEY PATRIOT DOGGIE COLUMNIST

Senator Bruce Tarr's office released this press release earlier this week and the Valley Patriot family and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts animal lovers couldn't be happier. Once again, we cannot express our gratitude to Senator Bruce Tarr and all he does to keep our pets safe!

Senator Tarr's Statement on the Passage of the PAWS Act:

Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester) released the following statement today regarding the Senate engrossing S.2345, An Act protecting animal welfare and safety, AKA the PAWS Act, by a unanimous vote of 40-0:

"After several months of seeking meaningful and appropriate punishments for those who commit heinous acts of abuse against animals, it is great news that the PAWS Act has been engrossed by the members of the Senate. This bipartisan measure, which has been widely supported by legislators, law enforcement personnel, and citizens, is an important step in updating the state's woefully inadequate animal abuse laws.

The case of Puppy Doe, a dog who was discarded inhumanely at a Quincy park and suffering from a stab wound to her eye; the splitting of her tongue to look like a serpent; dislocated shoulder, elbow, wrist, and ankle; burned; and starved, is one of many examples of animal cruelty within this state. While some individuals will sadly continue to abuse animals, this bill will not only prevent some from being treated so cruelly, but will also provide meaningful punishments to those who decide to commit such acts.

The Senate engrossing the PAWS Act will enable public safety officials with the proper tools to confront the issue of animal abuse head on by:

- Increasing the possible fine of committing animal abuse from $2,500 to $5,000 for a first offense, and up to $10,000 for a second and subsequent offenses;
- Raising the maximum time in prison from 5 years to 7 years for a first offense and up to 10 years for a second and subsequent offenses;
- Requiring veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse (similar to the requirement of medical staff who suspect child abuse); and
- :Creating a special taskforce of experts in law enforcement, animal protection, veterinary, legal professionals, and industry professionals to review methods to prevent animal abuse and punish those who commit animal abuse.

Tracey Zysk, owner of Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care in North Andover MA is a

local pet care professional. She has been featured on local radio, tv and newspapers educating the general public on animal care and animal health & wellness. Tracey is a proud supporter of Police, Fire & Military K9 units and National Award winner of the Platinum PAW award. Tracey may be reached at wigglewalk@comcast.net. Become a fan on facebook at Wiggles & Jiggles Pet Care.

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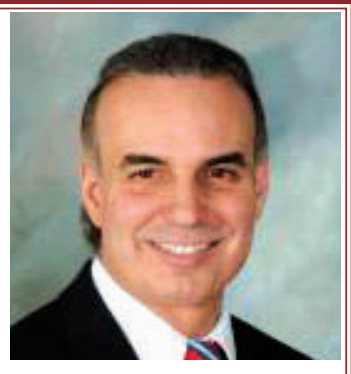

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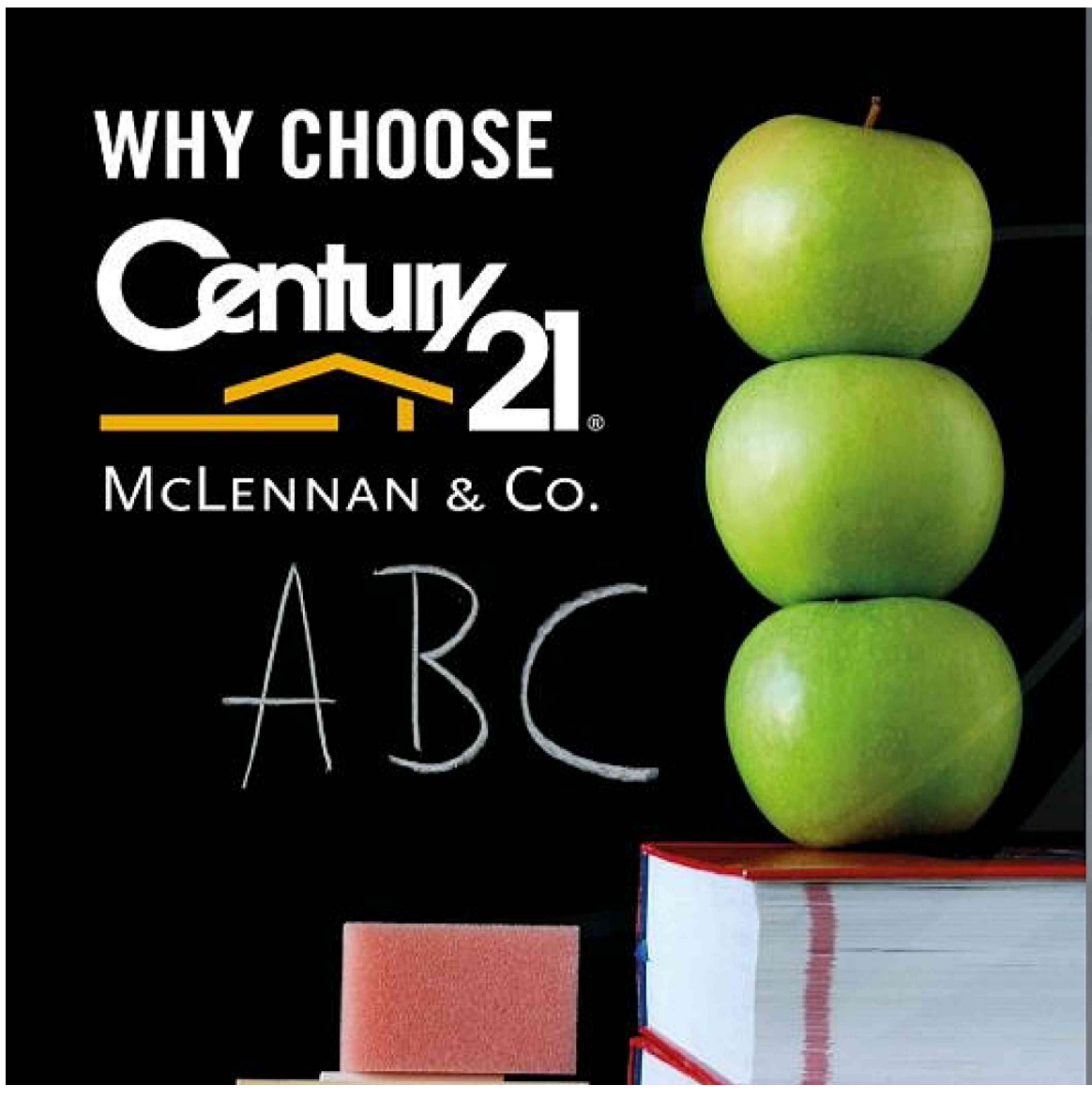

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~Mike Gagliardi,
Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America

Summer Events at Salisbury and Hampton Beach

LAWRENCE SUPER GROUP and RE-UNION OF FRIENDS at Uncle Eddies in Salisbury on Sunday, August 10th, 2PM

Event Performance times:

1:45-2:00pm: Event starts by firing up the PA with announcements and by a short world vision presentation followed by acoustic music.

2-2:30pm: The Flaherty Brothers will open the show

2:30-3pm: "The Crystal Empire" will perform for the first time in many, many, years.

3-3:40pm: Joe Sciuto will be performing a tribute to The Rolling Stones with Sib Hashiam, formerly of the band "Boston", Vinny DiTommasso, Andy Vallerio and other special guests.

3:45-4:30pm: Joe Homesy, Jimmy Marino aka former members of "the Heavens". Years of experience has molded this band into what it is today. A very dynamic tight band with lots of feel, rock, blues and a little bit of soul.

FEATURING: Joe Homsey, Jimmy Marino, Jimmy Nelson, with special prearranged guest Joe Sciuto and more.

4:35-4:50pm: World Vision Presentation

5-5:50pm: John Maderous, Tonnie Barton and a multi-talented protégé Aron Denny in memory of Tim Cannon

6-6:50pm: The Irregulars featuring Erik Preston, John Swartz and his band. Erik has been playing for many years with several well-known bands including "The B Street Bombers". Erik has developed a fantastic Jimmy Hendrix Tribute show in the past. With special guests.

7-7:30pm: Charlie Farren is going to play a set followed by a little jamming with friends later in the show. We are very fortunate to have Charlie who has written and recorded with among others The Joe Perry Project, and his own signed band "Farrenheight "and many other international stars. Charlie's portion of the show is sure to be a highlight of the evening.

7:35-8:30pm: The Band "Something Else" with Joey Delilah, Bob Ramey, Jim Sambataro, Billy Loosisian, and Tom McQuillan (on drums). Billy Loosisian has made a name for himself playing with people like Peter Wolf, Willy Alexander and Poor Boys and others will be re-joining his band from 30 years ago.

8:40-9:30pm: Robbie Barton and Friends. Robbie, formerly of Trapper, Roughhouse,The Robbie Barton Band, Too Shy and more has opened for Aerosmith, Alvin Lee, Edgar Winter Rick Derringer and more will be playing a set to include Bobby Jackson on guitar, vocals, and harmony. Mike Bistany on drums, Jim Jim Sambataro on bass. Also includes special guest singer songwriter guitarist, Duncan Mclore and a set of "Montrose" songs with John Levesque who has sung the band "Montrose" and has worked with Eddie Money .Yes you read it right!!

SALISBURY EVENTS

Fri, Aug 8th - Buffett Beach Blast, Blue Ocean Music Hall, Vintage Cars and Doo Wop, Ocean Front South

Sat, Aug 9th - James Montgomery Band Concert & Fireworks Extravaganza, Beachfront Stage.

Fri, Aug 15th - Vintage Cars and Doo Wop, Ocean Front South.

Sat, Aug 16th - SCARAB: The Journey Experience Concert & Fireworks. Beachfront Stage.

Fri, Aug 22th -Vintage Cars and Doo Wop, Ocean Front South.

Sat, Aug 23rd - Adam Ezra Ramble & Fireworks, Beachfront Stage.

Fri, Aug 29th - Vintage Cars and Doo Wop, Ocean Front South.

Sat, Aug 30th - Concert - To Be Announced & Fireworks, Beachfront Stage.

Fri, Sep 5th -Vintage Cars and Doo Wop, Ocean Front South.

HAMPTON BEACH CLUB CASINO:

Tuesday, 8/12, 8pm - Tesla

Wednesday, 8/13, 8pm - Josh Turner

Thursday, 8/14, 8pm - Gov't Mule

Friday - 8/15, 8pm - The Beach Boys

Saturday, 8/16, 4&8 pm - Bill Cosby

Sunday -8/17, 8pm - Gavin DeGraw & Matt Nathanson

Thursday, 8/21, 8pm – Jim Jeffries

Friday, 8/22 , 8pm - Alanis Morissette

Sunday, 8/24, 8pm - KC and the Sunshine Band.

Thursday 8/28, 8pm - Amy Schumer

Friday, 8/29, 8pm - Chris Isaak

Saturday 8/30, 7pm - Kenny Wayne Shepherd

HAMPTON BEACH TALENT COMPETITION: Fri, August 22nd to Sun, August 24th. Come watch talented entertainers compete for cash prizes. 1st $500, 2nd $300, 3rd $200. Limited to vocalists in one of two categories. (Junior & Senior). Junior category, up to age 18. Senior category, age 18 and over.

25TH ANNUAL SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Fri., September 5th to Sun., September 7th. Seafood Festival & Sidewalk Sale Days. Visit www.hamptonbeachseafood-festival.com for details on times, entertainment schedule and participating exhibitors, free parking and shuttle schedules. Ocean Boulevard (Center Beach) is closed to traffic and becomes a pedestrian mall from the Marine Memorial (The Lady) to H Street to accommodate the anticipated 150,000+ visitors each day!

Sample the flavors of the seacoast at New England's largest seaside festival. Over 50 restaurants join together, offering an extensive menu of seafood delicacies, Gala festivities include:

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Choose from favorites like lobster, shrimp, clams (steamed, broiled, barbecued or fried) to non-seafood items like "Bloomin' Onion" and fried ice cream.

New Hampshire Desperately Needs Walt Havenstein

D.J. BETTENCOURT
VALLEY PATRIOT NEW HAMPSHIRE COLUNMIST

Few states have endured a longer drought of electing a Republican governor than New Hampshire. In fact, that dry spell is unrivaled even in deeply liberal New England. New Hampshire has not elected a Republican to the corner office in a decade, and only once in the past 18 years.

This sustained Democratic rule is hardly without serious consequences. Many of us grew up during a time when New Hampshire was the economic envy of the nation. We had governors who were towering leaders like Meldrim Thomson, John Sununu, Judd Gregg and Steve Merrill. Together, they sustained a record of fiscal discipline and economic expansion that was a model for other states to emulate.

In 1996, New Hampshire began to depart course with the election of Jeanne Shaheen. Shaheen's administration oversaw an explosion of state spending, advocacy of a 2.5% sales tax and the implementation of an onerous and destructive statewide property tax. As a result of these policies, the state lost more than 16,000 manufacturing jobs and our high school dropout rate skyrocketed to 25%. Suddenly, New Hampshire was no longer the envy of the nation but merely the envy of the northeast region.

In 2004, New Hampshire turned to John Lynch and elected him to an unprecedented four terms as governor. During that time it was undeniable that he was personally popular. However, while his personality was tailor made to be the best Wal-Mart greeter of all time, he lacked the slightest semblance of leadership and his fiscal record was disastrous. During Lynch's tenure, the state raised or implemented almost 150 taxes, depleted the Rainy Day Fund, was indifferent to the state's unfunded liability crisis and advocated an income tax on small businesses. By the time Lynch was finished New Hampshire had been relegated to being only the envy of New England.

Now the state is suffering through another failed Democrat governor, Maggie Hassan. Of the three, there is no question that Hassan has been the worst. During her short two years as governor, she has earned the reputation of being an empty suit that blindly follows a radical liberal ideology. She has embraced expanded Obamacare with reckless disregard of the consequences, presided over a downgrading of the state's bond rating, led efforts to eviscerate education reform, violated the states campaign finance laws, embraced wasteful and expensive junkets, and has completely lost focus on growing the economy in favor of an obsession with social issues such as abortion, the death penalty, and gun control.

After almost two decades of Democratic rule in the corner office, New Hampshire has lost its top standing as the best state to raise children and has lost ground in every measurable economic ranking. We are no longer a model anyone seeks to follow. At long last, it is time for a serious change.

The person who can best lead that charge and end the Republican drought in the governor's office is Walt Havenstein. Havenstein doesn't emanate from a political dynasty nor from family wealth, and he isn't a career politician. Rather, Mr. Havenstein is a veteran who is self-made and a successful businessman. As former State Senate President Tom Eaton aptly observed, Havenstein is the type of candidate the public always says it wants but rarely gets to run for public office. He represents everything that Maggie Hassan is not, and everything New Hampshire needs.

Havenstein's life has been marked by a commitment to public service. He is a Naval Academy graduate who served 28 years in the Marines. While Maggie Hassan was securing her place among the elites at Phillips Exeter, Havenstein was helping to secure the nation.

Havenstein went on to become a successful businessman, most notably at New Hampshire's largest employer, BAE Systems. BAE is a company with $20 billion in sales and operates on a budget three times the size of New Hampshire's state budget. At BAE, he oversaw 50,000 employees, growth of the company, and earned the admiration of all who worked for him. Governing New Hampshire would not be the toughest challenge Walt Havenstein has encountered, unlike Hassan who is totally overwhelmed by even simple challenges.

New Hampshire is at a crossroads. It can give Maggie Hassan another term to continue accelerating New Hampshire's precipitous decline into a failed liberal wasteland, or it can begin healing to once again becoming the best state in America by electing Walt Havenstein.

D.J. Bettencourt served as a State Representative in the NH House of Representatives from 2005 to 2012 and was the House Majority Leader for the 2011-2012 legislative term. He currently works as the Director of Development and Community Relations at the Salem Animal Rescue League and serves on the Economic Development Action Committee in Salem, NH.

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Rebeccah Pearson
VALLEY PATRIOT NEWBURYPORT COLUMNIST

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At M.K. Benatti Jewelers, their goal is to provide the best quality jewelry at competitive prices. Matt Khatib and his wife, Karyn, who have been in the jewelry business for 14 years, opened M.K. Benatti Jewelers in Newburyport, Massachusetts in 2009 after being a jewelry repair service and design center in Cambridge, Massachusetts. M.K. Benatti Jewelers is your full service jeweler! They are an in-house design, cast and finish jeweler. They will cater to your needs whether it be a small repair or intricate design work, they can make your jewelry dreams come true. Do you have a diamond that you want to set, or reset, but don't want it to leave your sight?

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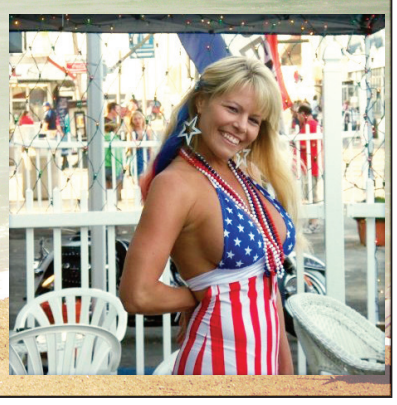
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~Mike Gagliardi,
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Democrat for State Treasurer

September 9th Primary Elections

* STATE SENATE - The 1st Essex Senate District is currently represented by Kathleen O'Connor Ives. She is being challenged by Greater Lawrence Tech School Committeeman Jessica Finocchiaro for the Democrat Nomination. The winner will face Republican Shaun Toohey. Toohey is a member of the Haverhill School Committee.

* STATE SENATE - With incumbent Senator Barry Finegold running for State Treasurer there are three candidates running for the Democrat nomination to replace him. Former State Representative Barbara L'Italian of Andover who lost her seat to Jim Lyons faces two primary opponents, Lawrence School Committeeman Pavel Payano and Lawrence activist Doris Rodriguez. The winner will face republican Alex Vispoli in the November final. Vispoli is a member of the Andover Board of Selectmen.

* STATE REP. - In the race for State Representative in the 14th Essex District (Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover, and Haverhill) Incumbent Democrat Diana Dizoglio is facing two primary challengers; activist Phil Decologero and hero veteran Oscar Camargo. Both challengers are from North Andover. The winner will face republican Rosemary Smedile in the November final. Smedile is a member of the North Andover Board of Selectmen.

* GOVERNOR: Republicans will choose between two candidates to face democrats in the November final, Charlie Baker and Mark Fisher.

* GOVERNOR: Democrats will choose between State Treasurer Steve Grossman, Attorney General Martha Coakley, and millionaire Donald Berwick.

* STATE TREASURER - The Democrats have a choice between Andover State Senator Barry Finegold, Deb Goldstein of Brookline and Wayland State Rep. Tom Conroy. The winner will face a Republican who can't win.

* ATTORNEY GENERAL - Democrats have a choice between Warren Tolman and Maura Healey.

* LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR - Democrats will choose between Mike Lake, Stephen Kerrigan, and Lelund Cheung.

* CONGRESS - Embattled Congressman John Tierney is facing three challengers this year. Marisa DeFranco, Seth Moulten and John Devine.

Crumbling Home Renovated in Lawrence

The Charles Hope Companies, LLC approved by the North East District Housing Court as receiver and Matias Enterprises, LLC general contractor were delighted last month to be hosting a ribbon-cutting event for the renovation of an abandoned home at 161-163 Foster Street in Lawrence.

The intention of the "receivership" program is to help restore deteriorated, abandoned properties to habitable conditions and ultimately productive use. The property was rehabilitated by employing graduates from Lawrence Youth Build, many local contractors and purchasing a substantial amount of the materials locally.

SOCIALISTS: FROM 10

amuse myself.

"So then if it's wrong for us to do that, how is Castro such a great guy when he imprisons journalists for openly criticizing him or his communist policies?"

Ah, its America's fault!

"Those journalists are traitors," she snapped. "Traitors, who have sold out their country by working with the US government to overthrow the country. We do the same thing," she repeated.

So, it's OK for Cuba to do it but not OK for America?

"OK, I'll bite. Give me specifics. Tell me how many journalists are in jail for criticizing America. Who are these people exactly?"

One thing I learned about discussions with liberals and leftists is that they are quick to make an accusation but devoid of specific details when pressed. That's why it is important to ask lots of questions when talking to liberals and Socialists, usually one in the same.

"What about Guantanamo? What about the political prisoners?" … she shot back, as if that was an answer.

The prisoners at Guantanamo are Al Qaeda and Taliban terrorists captured on the battlefield.

Not ready to let her change the subject by answering her, I pressed on with more questions.

"I was only asking you about freedom of speech and the press in this country. Who exactly is in jail for their beliefs, or for writing a column or book criticizing the government?"

She seemed insulted by my questions, but I was only there to learn.

"What about Mumia?" she asked clearly getting flustered.

Mumia happens to be an admitted enemy of the United States and is in prison for killing police officers.

"He is in prison for his beliefs!" she charged.

More proof that to have a leftist view of the world is to live in denial of reality. Rather than blow my cover, I just kept asking questions.

"How many Americans were arrested and tortured last year? And who exactly are these people?"

Clearly she had to have some specifics if she was so convinced this was true. Instead, she wanted to talk about how racist and evil America is for "waging war against Muslims." …another topic unrelated to my question.

Apparently she hadn't read anything about the war in Bosnia where the U.S. rescued millions of Muslims from extermination, or the Muslims we freed in Kuwait.

"Why do you suppose America hates Muslims and what makes you think this is true?" I asked.

"Uh … racial profiling after 911, dozens of Americans are being held just for being Muslims."

Really? That was the charge? I didn't see any headlines saying "Dozens Arrested for Being Muslim."

She didn't even hear me, she just kept blabbering.

"You can't trust the media," her husband broke in.

"You have to get the real news … from our publications," she added, pointing to her table filled with books on the glory of Marx and Castro as well as the evils of America.

"So, for Socialism to work," I probed, "we need to get rid of money and have the government make us all financially equal by taking away our liberty?" I asked, seeking clarification as to why money, Capitalism and personal liberty were bad things.

"If you have something that has value and someone else doesn't, you are not equal," she said.

"The standard of living for some people will decrease of course, but that is just a minority of our citizens."

Astonished by this, I asked her if minorities (by definition) should have the will of the majority forced upon them. It seems as though this flies in the face of everything liberals and Socialists say they stand for.

"But they are rich and they are depriving people of the food and resources they need to live. It is morally wrong to make someone pay money for something like food, housing or education when someone else has more! If we stop being so selfish with our resources and learn to give to others, the world will be a better place. Anyone who can't see that is either ignorant or selfishly refusing to see the errors in their ways."

"Oh," I responded. "Well, thanks for your time, I would like to educate myself more about this Socialism thing. These books on Socialism and Marxism, can I take these home? Are they free? I want to read more," I said continuing the facade.

"Oh, no" she replied. The book on Marx is four dollars, the pamphlet is three ..."

And there you have it!

Socialists value forced equality over individual liberty, and do so on the premise that you must practice what they preach.

All the while they profit from Capitalism and benefit from freedom by spreading their anti-American message in a country that allows (values) their right of free speech to peddle such hate.

Try doing that in Iran, Gaza, China, Saudi Arabia, or even Cuba … or 3/4 of the rest of the world.

Another valuable lesson learned right here in Lawrence, thanks to the freedoms of our capitalist system and the love of liberty our nation was founded upon … not equality as Marx and the American liberal Socialists would have you believe.

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Ye Gay Ol' Valley

Human Rights Campaign Survey Proves LBGT Youth Need Support

D. B. Langevin
LESBIAN COLUMNIST
VALLEY PATRIOT PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Whether or not you agree with or even understand a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered (LGBT) lifestyle the American youth who identify themselves as part of it still needs our guidance and support. All youth do in our country. Recently the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) conducted a "ground breaking" survey of over 10,000 Americans between the ages of 13-17 to get a picture of the difficulties they face in our country.

We all know too well how bullying is an epidemic in our schools, but for LGBT students they are twice as likely to be verbally harassed at school than their straight peers. Many of them feel that their school and community are ignorant and close-minded when it comes to LBGT youth. The number one thing that these teens would like to change in their lives is intolerance and hate. The number one thing straight teens would like to change is their classes, exams or grades. Shouldn't all youth be worried about those three things instead of the alternative?

LGBT face problems in their community, too. 47% of those surveyed said that they don't feel they fit into their community and 4 out of every 10 admit that they live in a community that is not accepting of LBGT people. 57% say the places of worship where they live do not accept them and 45% believe their state government does not. These are institutions that are supposed to accept and support those it serves and yet we have thousands of our youth saying they are getting none. In fact, 92% said they hear negative messages about being gay from their community, churches, and politicians.

The HRC makes it clear that, "A strong base of support at home is critically important." While many surveyed did feel that they were accepted by their family, too many, 33%, said that they were not. When asked what the number one problem they are facing in their lives right now, straight teens said college and career; LBGT teens said not being accepted by their families. I find this statistic particularly disturbing because I can relate to it and feel it should not exist. Being accepted by your family should be a given-PERIOD! One in three LBGT teens admitted that they do not have an adult they feel comfortable talking to about personal problems. With this fact, comes other problems. Because they have no one they feel they can turn to, even in their own families, 52% stated that they have turned to drugs and alcohol. Only 22% of straight teens have admitted the same. Most likely because they have a support system within their family because they have no fear of being judged, ridiculed or rejected.

Despite these disturbing statistics LGBT youth are surprisingly optimistic about their lives and the future. 83% feel that they will eventually be happy, but 49% said that they must leave their current community to do so. I don't like the word eventually. Why do they have to wait to be happy, accepted or loved? Why can't it be now? Tens of thousands of our young citizens should not be afraid to be open about their identity or ever hear disparaging remarks about it from anyone, especially those they live with and among. Those who are supposed to be giving them spiritual and political guidance should put their feelings aside and serve these youth as they promised to do when being ordained or sworn in. My parents, both devout Catholics, may not have agreed with my lifestyle, but they never deliberately said or did anything to make me feel less than loved or accepted. They truly modeled themselves after the messiah they worshipped. We, as a community, country, and human race have an obligation to give all of our youth the love, support and acceptance they need to be happy now and eventually become happy adults.

Dani Langevin is a teacher and has a Bachelors in Fine Art and Masters in Education. She has written four young adult novels, one of which is self-published. You can email Dani at DaniBLangevin@aol.com

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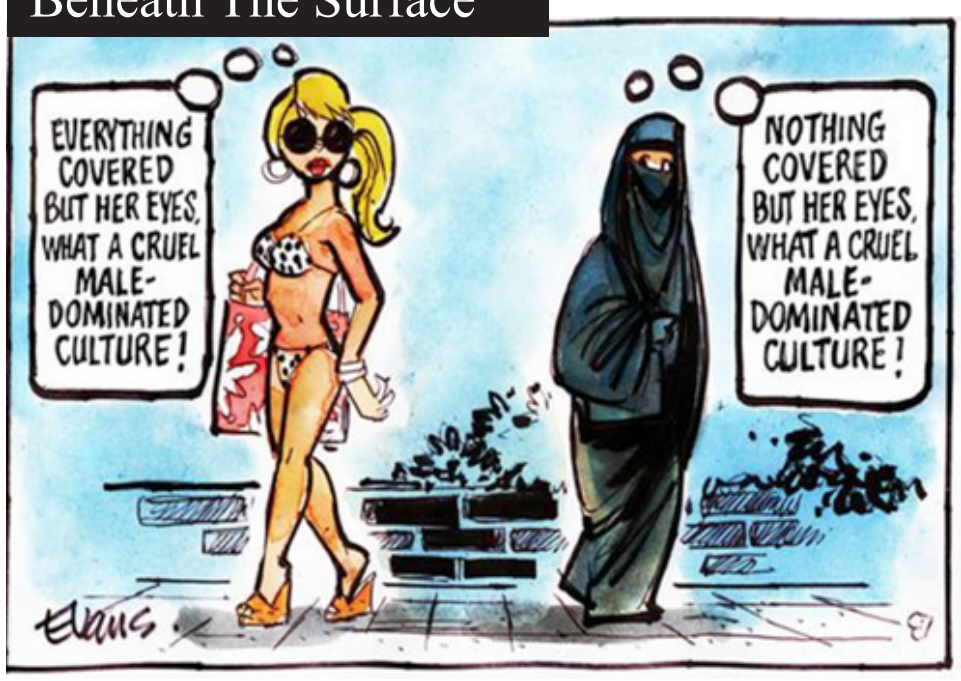

EVERYTHING COVERED BUT HER EYES, WHAT A CRUEL MALE-DOMINATED CULTURE!
NOTHING COVERED BUT HER EYES, WHAT A CRUEL MALE-DOMINATED CULTURE!
Evans

Culture Clash of the Middle East and the West: Anger vs. Apathy

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD

There are different ways of understanding the clash of cultures between the Middle East and the West today. I will offer one perspective. The culture clash relates to the two sides of hate: anger vs. apathy.

Anger is a reaction to perceived injustice that if left unchecked can quickly turn into hatred. It has the power to last a lifetime and fester for generations with continued violence. It is a pre-Christian attitude, for only forgiveness can stop the cycle of violence that results from harbored anger. The other extreme, apathy, frequently takes the form of a "live and let live" attitude, often masking a loathing indifference toward others. It tends to turn inward to isolation and self-absorption. It is a post-Christian attitude, which lacks meaning and hope.

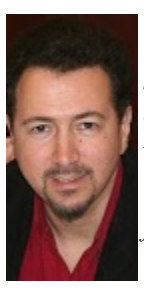
With men we see these extremes played out in the news media covering world politics. With women it is summarized in the above cartoon. Each woman sees the other as being abused and oppressed by men, yet each claims to be free themselves. Symbolically it communicates that Middle Eastern women are victims of domination as they protect themselves from lust, while western women are victims of lust as they protect themselves from domination. Domination and lust, the two effects of original sin that create the distortion of love between the sexes, are illustrated in this cartoon as the result of an angry and apathetic society respectively.

Interestingly, what has been lost to westerners here is that their own roots parallel cultures of the Middle East. Practices in the Middle East such as honor killings and putting to death adulterers, practicing homosexuals, and those who question the authority of the state, can be traced to the ancient origins of the West. Socrates was killed for questioning the beliefs and authority of his time. Mosaic Law demanded the Israelites put to death people for performing many of the same behaviors that traditional Muslims forbid, as did pagans from Scandinavia to Africa to Asia. When the Spaniards arrived in the new world they discovered Aztecs regularly practicing child-sacrifice and other natives collecting the scalps of their enemies. The entire ancient world was one of anger, domination and conquest, whose underlying moral principle was "might makes right."

Much of Islam today is where Israel, Greece, and Rome were before the Light of the world was born in Bethlehem. When this Light began to permeate human culture the Christian era was established, and the hatred of harbored anger that festered in men's hearts for countless centuries was offered an alternative – forgiveness, love of enemies, and self-sacrifice. Because it wasn't fully embraced, sporadic violence and war continued; but the world's great renewal in the Christian era saw western civilization flourish in unprecedented ways of human achievement, with a newfound respect for the dignity of women and for the sacredness of human life.

Prosperity, however, often leads to pride, indulgence, and sloth. The renewal of life turned into a new commitment to death. When modern western man boldly rejected the law of God, reaching out once again for the forbidden fruit, this time in the form of the birth control pill, the culture of lust and domination returned with a vengeance. The post-Christian era was born. The apathy of this era is more subtle than the outward anger of pre-Christian cultures. It is marked with isolation, depression, anxiety, meaninglessness; and the futile attempt to avoid this emptiness with immediate pleasure. Unlike the pre-Christian world, however, technology hides many effects. We have televisions with over 500 channels, as much comfort food as we can eat, computers that allow pornography at the touch of a button, and "clinics" that take care of our "problem" should our fornication culture produce pregnancies.

When we look across the ocean at the "backward and barbaric" practices of anger, violence and domination, but fail to see our own culture's more subtle but just as deadly practices of apathy, lust and abortion, we miss the bigger picture. The pre-Christian world is like the angry and confused adolescent seeking meaning to life while throwing a tantrum. The post-Christian world is the suicidal hermit who has given up on meaning and is dying of old age alone. Only the light and life of Christ gives the world its meaning and hope. Only He is the answer to anger and apathy, confusion and hopelessness. Only He is the solution to this culture clash of the 21st Century..



Paul Murano teaches philosophy and theology at Middlesex Community College, North Shore Community College, and Magdalen College. He is host of Beneath the Surface radio on WCAP (www.facebook.com/fellowtruthseekers), hosts a local TV show, and is co-host of Paying Attention! radio show. Paul is also founder and chairman of Heartbeat Pregnancy Help in Burlington and is a singer/songwriter/musician. He is the recipient of The Valley Patriot's 2014 Editor's Choice Award.

Who Has the REAL Koch Problem?

Christine Morabito
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Psychiatry has a word for the practice of accusing others of something you yourself do. The word is "projection."

According to PsychologyDictionary.org, projection is a "defense mechanism whereby unenviable or unpleasant traits, impulses or ideas are attributed to another. In this way, the projector is able to avoid the unpleasantness in themselves."

Progressives are quite fond of their slogan "America has a Koch problem" (pronounced coke). Clever, yes, but wildly inaccurate. In an effort to conceal the influence of left-wing millionaires and billionaires like George Soros, Michael Moore and Warren Buffett, Progressives have made an obsession out of demonizing David and Charles Koch for daring to have money, and therefore influence over American politics. In a public address, Senator Harry Reid even went so far as to call these private citizens "un-American." But then again, they don't call him "Dirty Harry" for nothing.

In an outrageous email from self-proclaimed Socialist, Senator Bernie Sanders: "The great issue of our time is whether the American people will be successful in defeating the efforts of the billionaire class which seeks to move our country into an oligarchic form of society in which a handful of super-wealthy families control the economic and political life of this nation." The Senator continued: "The Koch brothers, right-wing extremists who are now worth some $80 billion dollars, are prepared to spend as much as it takes to create an America in their vision. And what is that vision? The elimination of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, federal aid to education, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the concept of the minimum wage. ..."

His behavior bordering on the delusional, Sanders, Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, under intense scrutiny for the VA scandal, even tried to blame the agency's failings on the Koch brothers.

The villainization of these two men began in earnest after the Citizen's United Supreme Court ruling regarding political PACS. While Progressives consider the ruling a sign of the apocalypse, in actuality it leveled the playing field for both parties. What has the far-left unglued is the fact that conservatives may now influence elections much like unions and other special interest groups have done for years. In an OpenSecrets.org post, "Heavy Hitters: Top All-Time Donors, 1989-2014," Koch Industries ranked only 58, behind over a dozen powerful union groups. Yet "dark money" and "shadowy money" are terms reserved for conservatives. I call this projecting on steroids.

A little research reveals that the Charles Koch Foundation is committed to both science and higher education, offering grants to over 250 colleges and universities. David Koch provides funding for PBS's "Nova" series, and has donated generously to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, the American Museum of Natural History and other institutions too numerous to mention here. Doesn't sound "un-American" to me.

Charles and David are enthusiastic supporters of the free-market philosophy that built this great nation. When it comes to health care, their position is not to deny coverage, but to advocate for proven, free-market solutions. The Affordable Care Act, despite the fancy rhetoric, will bankrupt our states, limit access to quality care and force us all to pay substantially more, resulting in millions of Americans being insured in name only. Koch Industries' commitment to health care is well known. They have donated over a billion dollars of "shadowy money" to cancer and other medical research.

The notion of privatizing Social Security, an idea shared by the Koch brothers, is far from extreme. In fact, it may be the only thing that will ultimately save the failing program. Clearly, the current Ponzi scheme that is Social Security is unsustainable and will leave millions of future retirees out in the cold.

Companies owned by the brothers have received 180 environmental and safety awards, including a Clean Air award from the EPA itself. Yet the mischaracterizations abound.

The hypocrisy of the far-left is astounding. Mike Ciandella, writer and analyst for the Business & Media Institute, reported that billionaire George Soros "has accepted a position on the National Finance Council of the Ready For Hillary Super PAC." He also "spent more than $25.5 million to defeat President George W. Bush in 2004. … In just 10 years, he gave more than $550 million to liberal organizations in the United States. This has included money going to fund liberal agenda topics like Earth Day, gun control, government funding of student loans and even the IRS targeting of conservatives." Soros' liberal PAC, Center for American Progress, has bankrolled many a political campaign. Money and influence? – nothing to see here.

Propaganda master, Michael Moore, one of America's richest 1 percent, with 9 homes to his name, made $125,384 in political contributions in 2012. This anti-capitalist millionaire raked it in by selling his outlandish documentaries designed to sway opinions all around the world. Moore is among the brothers' most vocal critics, blasting them for their influence

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over American politics. Again, projection.

Warren Buffett has already made $77,600 in political contributions for 2014, and the year's still young. Over a billion dollars of Buffett money has also been used to influence the abortion lobby. Wealth and persuasion is apparently only a problem when it comes from conservatives.

By projecting the perceived unpleasant qualities of wealth and influence onto David and Charles Koch, those on the far-left can ignore those same negative qualities within themselves. Typically this defense mechanism is employed unconsciously. However, in this case it is clearly a conscious effort.

Christine Morabito is a resident of Haverhill and former President of the Greater Boston Tea Party. You can email her at christine.morabito@hotmail.com

State Senator O'Connor Ives Working Into Final Day of Session

July is one of the busiest months in the legislature because the legislative session comes to a close on July 31, 2014. As such, the Senate acted on a number of notable pieces of legislation.

S. 2337 An Act Relative to Unsolicited Loans

This bill was one of my original 7 pieces of legislation I filed in 2012. It would prohibit banks, credit card companies, or any financial institutions that currently issue unsolicited loans to consumers from doing so while adding strict fines that would penalize institutions that issue these credit/loan checks unless there has been a prior authorization or request from the consumer. An addressee would not be held liable for any debt incurred by an unauthorized use of an unsolicited loan instrument by a party other than the addressee. The bill passed the Senate and I will continue to work towards this legislation becoming law.

We have an obligation to ensure that we are doing all we can to protect our constituents' financial identity. Prohibiting the issuing of these unsolicited checks will strengthen consumer protection from identity theft. The burden should not be placed on residents to shred or cancel these unsolicited credit checks, which are easy vehicles for theft and misuse.

H. 4236 An Act to Increase Opportunities for Long Term Substance Abuse

Substance abuse affects everyone and is a public health epidemic that demands our attention. I invited the Senate Special Committee on Drug Addiction and Treatment options to come to Methuen to hold a hearing and hear from advocates, clinicians, law enforcement, first-responders and residents in the Merrimack Valley about this problem. This legislation removes prior authorizations and would require insurance coverage of up to 14 days in an inpatient facility. It directs the Center for Health Information and Analysis to review the denial rates for substance abuse treatment throughout the Commonwealth. Hospitals would now be required to report the number of infants born exposed to controlled substances and hospitalizations caused by taking drugs on a monthly basis to the Food and Drug Administration. The state Department of Public Health and the chief medical examiner would be required to report overdose deaths.

S. 2283 An Act to Promote Public Safety and Protect Access to Reproductive Health Care Facilities

I testified before the Judiciary Committee in support of An Act to Promote Public Safety and Protect Access to Reproductive Health Care Facilities. The bill aims to address public safety concerns in light of the Supreme Court's recent decision to strike down Massachusetts' 35-foot Buffer Zone Law. This bill authorizes law enforcement to clear those who impede access to a reproductive health facility entrance or driveway.

H. 4047 An Act Relative to Assisting Individuals with Autism and Other Intellectual or Development Disabilities

This bill establishes a commission while also studying ways the state can improve services for autism spectrum disorders in the future. It requires MassHealth to cover treatments for autism spectrum disorder and requires the Department of Developmental Services programs to include individuals with developmental, as well as intellectual, disabilities.

S. 2334 An Act Relative to Domestic Violence

This legislation creates a first offense of assault and battery on a family member, and creates a new crime of strangulation and suffocation with increased penalties. I co-sponsored a bill at the beginning of the session that would create the crime of strangulation as a felony instead of a misdemeanor. It would also prohibit the use of accord and satisfaction agreements in domestic violence cases. Accord and satisfaction is where victims could be pressured to sign and release an abuser of accountability. Massachusetts had been the only state where accord and satisfaction could result in the dismissal of a case. The legislation creates transparency among prosecutors, police and advocates when recognizing signs of a victim being in danger. The bill also removes the requirement that adults obtain a firearms identification card (FID) in order to carry pepper spray.

H. 4366 An Act Relative to Campaign Finance Disclosure and Transparency

This bill would require super political action committees (PACs) to disclose their funding sources, starting this election cycle. I proudly voted in favor of this bill, knowing that it will help address a number of concerns that arose from

the Supreme Court's Citizen's United decision. The bill aims to increase the transparency of political contributions that candidates and campaigns receive throughout the year by expanding important disclosure requirements of those donations to the Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF). This bill requires super PACs to disclose their funding sources within seven days of any spending and within 24 hours if that spending is within ten days of an election. It also requires any independent electioneering communication to include

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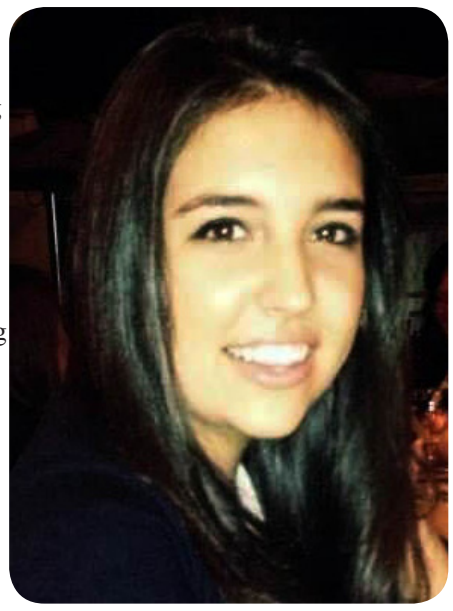
TEEN TALK WITH ANA DEBERNARDO

Studying Abroad Family Style

Six weeks ago, my sister Lucia, a rising junior at Harvard College, left for an eight week study abroad program in Italy. She spent her first four weeks in Milan, and later took the train to Siena where she would spend her last four weeks studying cultural economics. I had seen my best friend off to the airport many times, but it was especially tough this time around because I knew that I wouldn't be seeing her for two months; the longest we would have ever been apart.



As expected, it was extremely difficult to come home everyday without seeing her around, but we did communicate daily and keep each other updated on our respective lives and social calendars. The first couple weeks mainly consisted of Lucia sending me pictures of the Vatican and selfies in a gondola in Venice, which I would receive enviously as I contemplated the dullness of my summer in comparison to hers. Soon, however, came the messages in which she relayed her homesickness, her desire to sleep in her own bed again and to taste Starbucks and Honey Bunches of Oats. Little did the two of us know, that while she was sharing this information with me, my parents were planning a surprise visit. Two days before they scheduled the flight, our parents told my brother and I to pack for a weeklong trip to Italy.

The following Monday, after two stressful yet exciting days leading up to the trip, the four of us got onto the first plane which took us to Frankfurt. After a brief stop in Germany, we stepped onto our second plane which landed in Florence. From there, only an hour drive to Siena separated me from my sister. Only upon arrival to our hotel did we learn that my sister had left for the day with her classmates and professor to sightsee a local town called Lucca. Since our plans to surprise Lucia had been postponed, we decided to settle in and get to know Siena.

From the minute we stepped out of the airport, I recognized that I was in a country set apart from all others. Walking the cobbled streets of Siena, however, made me truly realize the intangible beauty found in every building, in every field, and, really, in every detail of the country. It's unbelievable to look at a building whose bricks are at least 800 years old. Wherever you go, you're surrounded by centuries of history and art, and as history is my favorite subject, it's safe to say, I have been hungrily taking in every minute of my stay.

After we had our first delicious Italian dinner, we decided to check my sister's dorm again to see if they had returned from their excursion. When the lady at the front desk informed us that they hadn't yet come back, we decided our only option was to return to our hotel, as it was already close to midnight, and it was beginning to rain. Almost immediately upon opening our door, we heard the familiar "ding", notifying us of a new message. Sure enough, it was Lucia telling us she had just gotten back from her trip and she was getting ready to go to bed. At this point, the drizzle outside had transformed into a violent downpour, and we decided the best thing to do was to let the surprise wait till the following day. My brother, on the other hand, had plans of his own. He volunteered to go out on the five-minute walk in the pouring rain to our sister's dorm and bring her back to our hotel.

I'll never forget the look of genuine shock she had on her face when she walked through our door. She was almost crying of happiness while telling us how relieved she was to see us all. It seemed as if we were talking for mere minutes, but after checking the time and realizing it was three in the morning, we called it a night, and looked forward to the Roman holiday that awaited us.

LARE Institute Offers Free Customer Service Certification

LARE Institute offering free Customer Service Certification training and assessment for qualified Lawrence residents, as made possible through Santander Foundation grant.

Opportunity is knocking at the doors of Lawrence residents looking to get back to work or advance in their careers.

LARE Institute, a branch of American Training, is now offering National Professional Certifications in Customer Service, at no cost, to qualifying Lawrence residents, as made possible through a grant awarded to the school by the Santander Foundation.

After searching for a way to serve the community, LARE's grant coordinator Carol Sholik applied for the Santander Foundation's Community Investment and Economic Development Priority Grant with the help of Carole Giordano, licensing coordinator.

"We've been a part of this community for over thirty years and when we see a need, we do what we can to help meet that need. We know there are community members out there who want to get back to work and need assistance doing so," said Giordano, "so we decided to offer the Customer Service Certification."

Santander team members presented grant checks to several community organizations on Wednesday, July 16 at their Andover location, awarding $5,400 to LARE Institute.

"The grant will allow us to provide training to members of our community who are looking to get back to work or leverage their earnings," Giordano said.

The nationally recognized certification meets the basic needs for many positions in a variety of fields, including training in areas like organizing, planning, problem solving, and more.

"These skills are transferrable to any industry" said program director and Vice President of the organization Sheryl Scannell.

As a result of the grant award, 30 eligible Lawrence residents will be able to participate in and complete free Customer Service training and Certification in a total of seven hours. Every resident who earns this distinctive Certification will have national, transferrable credentials of skill and knowledge in customer service.

"This certification and the skills students learn in the course enhance their resumes and make them more attractive to employers," said Giordano.

Students who have completed the Customer Service Certification at LARE Institute have gone on to various jobs at local employers like Bank of America, New Balance, Youth Build, Ashland Farm, and Injured Workers Pharmacy.

"I know there are so many residents who have untapped skills and abilities and just need the self-confidence to achieve their goals," said Sholik. "This certification will give them that confidence to pursue those goals or even serve as a stepping stone in a path to a new career.

"Not only will it show them that they are capable of achieving their goals, but it will show potential employers that they have the ability to learn and work as successful team members," she added.

For more information regarding eligibility and enrollment, or to find out more about LARE Institute and American Training, contact Carol Sholik at 978-685-2151, ext. 6718 and carolsholik@americantraininginc.com or Carole Giordano at 978-685-2151, ext. 6710 and carolegiordano@americantraininginc.com.

American Training, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that has been delivering premier, award-winning workforce development, day habilitation, and work and residential programs since 1979. Our dedicated and passionate family of colleagues compliments these programs with some of the region's most dynamic support services in the areas of transportation, counseling, work-preparedness seminars, and advocacy. We serve hundreds of residents, including people with disabilities, youth, youth-at-risk, the unemployed, underemployed, lifelong adult learners, and those looking to get the most out of life. Our services extend across many cities and towns in the Greater Merrimack Valley area and beyond. We are recognized for our WOW! Philosophy, which describes the fun and entertainment we incorporate in our activities, while always acknowledging dignity and respect for each person. As a company, American Training is fully committed to bringing out the best in everyone we touch by using proven methods leading to lives that are fuller and more meaningful.

Andover Selectman Alex Vispoli with his son, proudly display their Valley Patriot on the campaign trail. Vispoli is running for State Senate in November and will face the winner of the Sept 9th Democrat Primary election.

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LAWRENCE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BABIES AND BRIEFCASES

FAITH, HOPE AND GROCERIES: HOW TO BE A GREAT LEADER

Cheryl Hajjar
VALLEY PATRIOT MOMMY COLUMNIST

This past month, our community has been inundated with the Market Basket saga. A family feud that has been going on for decades.

It is perceived by all of us as a good vs. bad battle, much like scenes from a Spiderman or Batman movie where the superhero fights the villain in an underdog fashion.

We are all sitting on the edge of our seats waiting for the final outcome. We have been inspired and moved by the employees of Market Basket and their actions in one way or another. I found myself driving by one of the stores the other day and beeping my horn to support the picketers holding their signs up. We are all doing it.

It has to be one of the greatest modern day shows of the human spirit, and what happens when a committed group of people band together and stand their ground. My 11 year old actually asked me if I could take him to the store to see the empty shelves and people holding the signs up. It was an extremely powerful lesson for him: to stand up for what you believe in.

No matter who is right or who is wrong in the Demoulas family battle, one thing is certain. The employees of Market Basket stand behind their CEO. But why? Why are they willing to lose their jobs for him? Why are they spending countless hours everyday standing outside in the hot summer sun picketing? The answer is simple. Loyalty. What makes an employee loyal to a fault one might ask? Well, according to some Market Basket employees, Artie T., as he is so named now, is one of the kindest and most thoughtful men they have ever known. He knows his employees by name, and with just about 25,000 of them, that's a difficult feat to accomplish.

He attends funerals of the employees family members, and in the economic landslide of 2008, he put money back into the employee profit sharing plan so they could all receive their bonuses.

They are loyal to him for one reason, because he gives them a reason to believe in mankind. A reason to get up in the morning everyday and feel like they are a part of something. In today's day of big wig corporate America CEO's, most leaders don't give a damn about their employees, feeling that every one of them is replaceable, but the Market Basket community is quickly proving that statement to be far from the truth.

Artie T. has an old school approach, an approach that has built a grocery store chain of epic proportion. He knows that without his loyal employees, the stores wouldn't have been built and the Demoulas legacy wouldn't have carried on the way it has for all these years. Maybe America's corporate suits have a take away from all of this. Be less about the numbers and more about the people. It's evident from this instance that a committed group of people can single handedly shut down a multi billion dollar business

HAJJAR: PAGE: 39

How Far We Have Come?

Mark Lipman
VALLEY PATRIOT GUEST COLUMNIST

The recent events and conflict in Gaza have caused great stress and polarization around the world. Although the best in the great majority of us has risen to the top in protests for peace across the globe; the worst in a few, blinded by the ideology of racism and hatred for "the other", has held near exclusive sway in all the corporate-controlled, mainstream media, with a fundamentalist, reactionary demonization of all things Palestinian.

Let me say this with as much clarity as possible. What we are facing today is not a question of choosing sides between Israel and Palestine, but rather a basic question of, and a crisis within, our own humanity; of who we are, of what we have become in our very souls.

When I hear religious leaders, politicians, news-actors and their puppet followers, degrading the human worth of an entire population, calling for more and more violence, justifying genocide and the killing of children, in order to suit their ideological and political ends, literally admitting to and embracing the word "fascism", for the joy of bloodlust and surge of power they feel for being on the wielding side of the artillery shells, a deep rage and disgust boils in my heart.

Facing such cruelty, I willingly choose atheism over all of your vengeful, spiteful, hateful gods, all killing in the name of … in the shame of the poison that has filled too many souls, excusing atrocities and applauding murder as greatness.

Yes, I choose a side, not based upon religion, or nationality, but founded in truth and a common decency for all life. I stand as much with the Palestinians and their struggle for justice, as I do with the refugee children sitting at the U.S. border, and with all those who stand up against the politics of apartheid, against the manipulating governments of fear, distrust and hate.

If you ask me why Israel and its supporters are on the wrong side, it is because they are the military occupiers. The aggressor has no "right" to claim defense.

Listen to what is being said, listen to the words dripping off the oppressor's tongue, mimicking the drool of blood that falls from the vulture's beak, and ask yourself how far have we come from the Germany of the 1930's, when the same evil was spoken, in the very same way, in the very same words, about another race, another culture?

What we see today has nothing to do with the teachings of any religious scripture and everything to do with racism and greed, with the concentration of wealth into the hands of a few elite, who consider themselves the gods, the master race, while the rest of us – all of us – whether Muslim, Jew or gentile, the mat on which to wipe their feet.

Mark Lipman, founder of VAGABOND, is a writer, poet, multi-media artist and activist, author of six books, most recently, Poetry for the Masses and Global Economic Amnesty. Co-founder of the Berkeley Stop the War Coalition (USA), Agir Contre la Guerre (France) and Occupy Los Angeles, he has been an outspoken critic of war and occupation since 2001. editor@vagabondbooks.net www.vagabondbooks.net

SR. CENTER: FROM 6

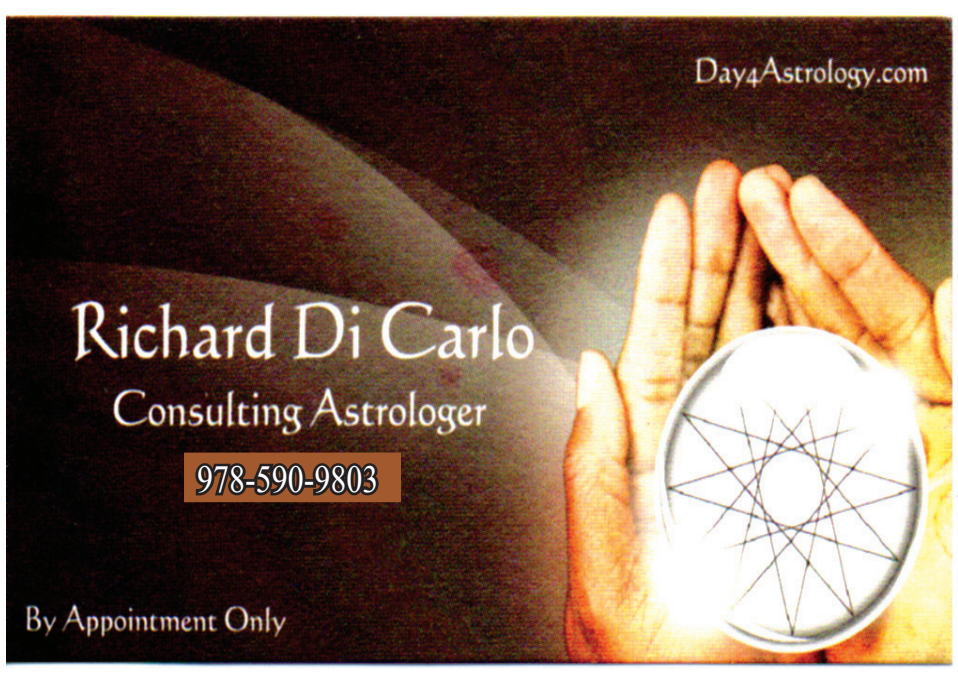
as new. Lamps, with cords and sockets, replace watch batteries, small tables and chairs. Anything that is not listed, we will give it a shot! Your cost is $2 - $4 depending on work needed, plus parts. Proceeds benefit the Senior Center.

WALK IN CLINIC: Every Wednesday 9-12 pm, the North Andover Senior Center and Home Health Inc/VNA operate a wellness clinic. If you are a North Andover Senior, we urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to check your blood pressure, blood sugar, weight and blood oxygen levels. Consult privately with an RN regarding any medication and health issues that you are concerned about. There is no charge for this service. Donations are gratefully accepted.

FOOT CARE: RN Catherine Languedoc, Foot Care Specialist, will be available on the third Friday of every month from 9-2:30. Next date is August 15th. Dr. Connolly is available on Wednesday, August 13th from 1-3pm.

HEARING CLINIC: August 20th, Miracle-Ear will be at the North Andover Senior Center (3rd Wed. of every month), 10-12. Sign up with reception for a free screening.

ROCKINGHAM MALL TRIP- 4th Monday of every month. Next date July 28th @ 1 pm. $4 round trip.



LAWRENCE: FROM 13

of control. Federal money comes with strings attached. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts controls many aspects of our city. We have the state appointed fiscal overseer, Robert Nunes. When asked, Mr. Nunes seems to have no exit plan. We also have the state appointed school receiver, since control of our schools has been taken away from the people and their elected representatives. Yes, it is RECEIVER, not Superintendent nor Superintendent/Receiver. No matter how you try to spin it, Mr. Jeffrey Riley is the RECEIVER. Don't want Common Core? Too bad, the residents have no say in it. It's questionable whether we will ever be allowed to control our finances or schools. Since money is no object in the Lawrence school system, I wouldn't be surprised if they're already putting out the welcome mats for the flood of illegal immigrants that Governor Patrick is inviting into our state. In my opinion, the control of the school system will never be returned to Lawrence. School expenditures have been increasing by around $6M per year, bringing local control increasingly out of our reach. It seems unlikely, by virtue of human nature, that the state and future receivers would willingly give up their petri dish for educational experiments.

I Don't Want a Ceasefire In Gaza

Forest Rain Marcia
VALLEY PATRIOT ISRAELI COLUMNIST

Again we are hearing news of negotiations for a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel. The world media seems jubilant. I am not. I don't want a ceasefire.

I want peace. Real peace.

A ceasefire means ceasing to fire. It makes no mention of putting down weapons, or taking a step further and "beating swords into plowshares." Ceasefire is a temporary pause in warfare that can be resumed at any time.

Moreover as, in this case, we are talking about a conflict between a law abiding sovereign state and a terrorist organization. Guess which side will break the agreement and resume fighting? Actually, there is no need to guess. We have seen this cycle before. We know what the outcome will be.

In 2000, Israel withdrew from Lebanon. The logic was that if the IDF withdrew from the security zone in Lebanon, Israel would have a clearly drawn border in the north and would have international legitimacy in responding to any violation of that border. The whole point of the security zone was to keep Hezbollah rockets out of range of the Israeli civilian population and prevent attacks on northern Israel. At the time I didn't understand the logic of withdrawing from the security zone. The terrorists were still there; if the IDF was not there wouldn't they just come closer to the border, putting all of northern Israel in range of their missiles? The answer was, of course, yes. Withdrawing from Lebanon meant that soldiers no longer got killed inside Lebanon; instead Hezbollah crossed into Israel to kill soldiers, stole their bodies, taking them back to Lebanon for ransom. In 2004, they were returned to Israel in exchange for 436 convicted terrorists. In 2006, it happened all over again. Soldiers were again killed and taken for ransom. Hezbollah rained missiles down on the entire north of Israel (2006 Second Lebanon War) – suddenly the civilian population was on the frontline of war (see War in Haifa). The war ended with a UN ceasefire that banned bringing arms into southern Lebanon. Hezbollah has since rearmed with over 100,000 new missiles pointed at Israel.

In an attempt to appease Arab violence, in 2005, Israel implemented the "Disengagement Plan." Thousands of Jews were evicted from their homes, the lands that they had cultivated and the towns they built, in hopes that removing all Israeli presence from the Gaza strip would convince the Palestinians to be peaceful. Instead of peace, we got missile bombardment of southern Israel. Attacks from Gaza on Israeli civilians are what led to Operation Cast Lead in 2008, and Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012. Each operation was brought to a close with a ceasefire – the first, a unilateral ceasefire on Israel's part, and the second by a negotiated ceasefire with Hamas. Now, in 2014, we are in the midst of Operation Protective Edge, and again there are discussions of a ceasefire and how "that is what is best for both sides."

Gilad Shalit was kidnapped by Hamas in 2006 and held hostage in Gaza for five years. Israel paid for his safe return with the release of 1,027 terrorists. They were greeted with open arms and celebrations by the Palestinian leaders. Rather than expressing regret for their actions, many are on record expressing their pride in the murders they committed and their desire to continue in the same vein – including 24 year old Amra Muna, who spent weeks instant messaging with 16 year old Ofir Rahum, for the sole purpose of luring him to Ramallah where he was murdered by

her friends while she watched.

The dramatic release of 1,027 convicted terrorists in exchange for a single Israeli is what motivated Hamas to kidnap Eyal Ifrach, Gil-Ad Shaer and Naftali Frenkel last month. If Israel was willing to release so many terrorists for Gilad Shalit, how many would she release for three teenage boys?

As I write, my phone rings with notifications of air-raid sirens in Israeli towns. Now in the south. Earlier it was also in the center of the country. Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and even northern Haifa are under threat of missiles from Gaza.

Earlier today Israel prevented an enormous terror attack when 13 terrorists infiltrated weapons left behind by terrorists via a tunnel dug from Gaza under the security border. Discovered, the terrorists abandoned the weapons they had brought to kill Israelis (see image right) and dove back into their tunnel. The tunnel was bombed but it is not clear if, or how many of the terrorists survived.

Two days ago, Israel agreed to the ceasefire proposed by the Egyptians. Hamas laughed. Today, the UN asked Israel for a humanitarian ceasefire so that they could try to help the residents of Gaza. Israel agreed. Hamas continued to fire missiles.

News commentators (including Israeli commentators) sit in their news rooms blithely discussing the possibility of a ceasefire and how "of course Hamas tries to commit numerous and more spectacular attacks just before the ceasefire is implemented so that they can feel victorious."

I don't want a ceasefire agreement.

I want my Prime Minister to stand up and explain to the terrorists, the people of Israel and the rest of the world:

"To all those who have misinterpreted our behavior, seeing our restraint as weakness, you have made a dreadful mistake.

For years, I, and the Prime Minsters before me have led a policy of restraint. We have reached out with multiple peace offerings, only to be refused each time. We have signed multiple agreements which, each time, have broken with acts of violence against the citizens of Israel. We have even agreed to various appeasement plans in hopes that giving in to Arab demands might bring a semblance of peace.

We gave land for peace. We released terrorists from prison for peace. We ignored acts of violence against us, both small and large. The Israeli people have been very patient. Up until now.

Restraint is strength, not weakness. Unfortunately, the neighborhood we live in has a hard time understanding this. We have not agreed not to act, we have only agreed to decide when and how to act. Our strength is in our morality, our dedication to each other and our deep desire to protect innocent people. This too seems difficult for others to understand – not just

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The Liars who Slander Israel Must be Exposed

Jerusalem Day Speech – Newton Commons

Charles Jacobs
AMERICANS FOR PEACE & TOLERANCE

We, Christians and Jews United for Israel, are here today in Newton, Massachusetts to celebrate the repossession of Jerusalem, Judaism's holiest city. It's a very special day.

Forty-seven years ago in early June, 1967, Jerusalem was reunited under Jewish sovereignty during the 6 Day War. We should never forget that it was a genocidal war: the attacking Arab armies swore they would wipe the Jews of Israel off the map.

Yet governments around the world, including our very own, withhold recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and are calling for its re-division – based in great part on the claims of the Arabs that Jerusalem is their "holy city," which we, the Jews, stole.

But that's a lie.

Jerusalem has been, since time immemorial, Judaism's holiest city. It is mentioned more than 600 times in the Torah. From ancient times, Jews end every Passover Seder and Yom Kippur service with the age-old affirmation, 'Next year in Jerusalem.'

Jerusalem was the capital of the Biblical Jewish kingdoms and the site of three thousand years of Jewish habitation. We didn't steal Jerusalem. It is ours. But then there are these lies.

Holy to the Muslims? When did that happen? Jerusalem is not mentioned once in the Quran. It is not the direction in which Muslims turn to pray (as do Jews). It has never served as a Muslim or Arab capital.

So the claim that Jews stole Jerusalem is like all the other representations hurled against the Jewish state every day – on the college campuses, in the mainstream media, in the liberal churches, and even in our high schools. It is a lie. And we had better start calling these things lies -- not just "misreporting," not just "the point of view of The Other," not just "inaccuracies."

Because lying about Jews is a deadly game. It's been around for a long time. In the middle Ages, we poisoned the wells and made matzoh with the blood of gentile children. Later, it was said that we controlled the banks and, behind the scenes, the governments of nations. Rabbi Abraham Heschel put it most clearly: "The Holocaust did not begin with the construction of the crematoria," he said, "but with the defamation of the Jews."

So we have to call these things lies, and we have to call the people who spout them – "liars."

Lies about Israel, and liars who defame

Israel pose the greatest threat to Jewish life today. Look at what's happening to the Jews of Europe.

Right here in Boston, lies about Israel swirl around us daily. When the editors at the Boston Globe consistently portray Israel as among the cruelest of nations, they are telling dangerous lies.

When so called human rights movements claim to be moved by justice, but are selectively outraged by Jews, they are hypocrites and are telling lies.

When Professor Denis Sullivan at Northeastern University tells students that there is nothing wrong with Hamas, he is a liar.

When Students for Justice in Palestine, and other radicals on campus, say they are moved by justice, but methodically ignore the real human rights violations in the Middle East, where Christians are being thrown from their homes, raped, crucified, and murdered, these radicals are not seekers of justice. They are liars.

And when high school curricula in a certain city not far from this spot -- teach public school students that Jews murder Arab women in Israeli jails, they are teaching lies. You should read about it. Pretty close to home.

These things must be said. It is very late in the day.

Finally, when leftist Jews who take money from anti-Semites to form an organization that blames only Israel for the lack of peace, and yet have the nerve to call themselves, "Pro Israel," they too are liars.

So to end… my friends… One day, Arab/Jewish peace may come about. We, all of us, hope and pray for that day. But real peace must be based on truth, not lies. And the truth is that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the Jewish people. And the truth is that we here, Christians and Jews, will stand together with Israel in these challenging times… no matter what. ..Am Yisroel Chai.!

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End U.S. Support to Hamas Terrorists

To the Editor,

U.S. law prohibits dispensing taxpayer money to any Palestinian entity over which Hamas exercises "undue influence." Congress must block funding to the Palestinians until they prove capable of governing themselves as something other than a terrorist enterprise. The U.S supports the Palestinian Authority – Hamas' partner in crime – with more than $400 million a year, and now Secretary of State John Kerry, bizarrely, has committed $47 million to Gaza directly; the American taxpayer has become a proud sponsor of this terrorist group.

The Middle East conflict is framed as one of the most complex problems in the world. But in reality, it's very simple. Israelis want to live in peace and are willing to accept a neighboring Palestinian state. Palestinians do not want Israel to exist. Now, evidently, neither does the Obama Administration.

Since the day Israel was founded in 1948, its neighbors have tried to destroy it again and again. There is an Arab war against the Jewish people's right to a state: more than 20 countries with a vast territory denying one people its sliver of land.

Have the Palestinians ever fulfilled the promise of peace, embedded in their dozen or so pacts with Israel? Has there ever been any reciprocity on the part of the Palestinians for land ceded by Israel, the release of thousands of Arab terrorists, hospital treatment for Arabs, humane warfare on the part of Israel?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said, "We cannot and will not allow a regime that calls for the destruction of Israel to obtain the means to achieve this goal".

Less than ten years ago the Israelis uprooted their Gaza settlements, expelled their own citizens, withdrew their military and turned Gaza over to the Palestinians. For peace! Israel wanted this new Palestinian state to succeed. Israel gave the Palestinians 3,000 greenhouses that produced fruit and flowers for export. It opened border crossings and encouraged commerce. The idea was to establish two states living peacefully side by side.

What happened? The Palestinians demolished the greenhouses, elected Hamas, then turned Gaza into a massive military base to make war on Israel. The Hamas charter proudly proclaims that the organization exists for the single purpose of destroying Israel, claiming all territory therein for Palestinians as part of the global Islamic-supremacist movement. Palestinians knew this when they voted to be led by this Muslim Brotherhood franchise, which has ruled Gaza for nearly a decade.

Hamas devotes resources to building tunnels to commit acts of terrorism, instead of building homes, parks, schools and hospitals. An Israeli spokesman said: "there are two Gazas, one above ground and one below ground: an underground terrorist city."

As a result of the ongoing ground campaign in Gaza, Israel learned that Hamas was planning to use these terror tunnels for mass slaughter on the coming Jewish New Year holiday, beginning on September 24. In a surprise attack, 200 terrorists would be dispatched through dozens of tunnels dug by Hamas – using U.S.-furnished construction equipment – under the border from Gaza to Israel to seize entire communities, killing and kidnapping Israeli civilians.

The U.S. taxpayer has to stop funding and supporting these terrorists. Israel remains our staunchest ally, and only true friend in the region.

Blossom Stiefel
151 Lincoln Parkway
Lowell, MA

Retroactive application of justice is a must.

To the Editor,

With a profoundly troubling development it appears that the state senate has already relegated the application of any compromise bill to address parole eligibility of juvenile murderers as a moot point. A critical amendment filed by Senator Bruce Tarr (R), Gloucester relative to Senate Bill 2246 "An act relative to juvenile life sentences for first degree murder" was rejected on July 8th with 14 senators voting for the measure and 25 rejecting it. The debate and swirl of amendments ranged from parole standards, eligibility and rehabilitation factors. The central debate focus however was to establish an acceptable range of time frames for parole eligibility for those juveniles who committed murder between the ages of 14-18 and to when they could be eligible for parole.

But in examining all amendments including those relative to a bill version newly sponsored by a six member panel of the House Ways and Means H4307 applying eligibility standards retroactively to 63 inmates who committed heinous crimes is not a subject of debate. Other than this shortfall the compromise version is a reasonable accommodation to a 2012 Supreme Court ruling that struck down life sentences without parole as cruel and unusual punishment. It establishes a 20-30 year minimum sentence for first degree murder and 25-30 years prison sentence before parole eligibility for murders committed with "extreme atrocity or cruelty." Though many advocates for victim's rights, rightly so, do not view the Supreme Court ruling and our own state's subsequent ruling made on Christmas Eve, 2013 to overturn a 1996 statute that allowed juveniles 14 years or older charged with murder to be tried as adults as fair, a legislative bill is inevitable. A law to support the US Supreme Court and Supreme Judicial Court must be passed.

What is unconscionable though is that in whatever form a compromise bill is passed, not making the provisions applicable to current convicted murderers is an exceptionally prejudicial bias committed against the families of victims and victim's rights advocates. The requirement for retroactivity should remain a paramount subject for debate and vigorously re-introduced as an amendment.

Without it any compromise bill will ensure an irrational application of the law-of-the-land and not ensure a true balance of justice for all affected parties.

Joe D'Amore
Groveland, MA

S. 2246 -- Question on adoption of the amendment Senate -- Roll Call #396

YEAS.

Candaras, Gale D.; O'Connor Ives, Kathleen;
Finegold, Barry R.; Pacheco, Marc R.;
Hedlund, Robert L.; Ross, Richard J.;
Humason, Donald F., Jr.; Rush, Michael F.;
Lovely, Joan B.; Tarr, Bruce E.;
Moore, Michael O.; Timilty, James E.;
Moore, Richard T.; Welch, James T. − 14.

NAYS.

Barrett, Michael J.; Jehlen, Patricia D.;
Brewer, Stephen M.; Joyce, Brian A.;
Brownsberger, William N.; Keenan, John F.;
Chandler, Harriette L.; Kennedy, Thomas P.;
Chang-Diaz, Sonia; Lewis, Jason M.;
Creem, Cynthia Stone; McGee, Thomas M.;
DiDomenico, Sal N.; Montigny, Mark C.;
Donnelly, Kenneth J.; Petruccelli, Anthony;
Donoghue, Eileen M.; Rodrigues, Michael J.;
Downing, Benjamin B.; Rosenberg, Stanley C.;
Eldridge, James B.; Spilka, Karen E.;
Flanagan, Jennifer L.; Wolf, Daniel A. − 25.

To The Editor:

Could the Bible contain a message? about being "On the Right" vs. "On the Left"?

Being neither a theologian or politician, nor a religious or public servant, I am simply an ordinary tax paying, citizen who believes in the bible and felt compelled to share my thoughts on this matter.

It first struck me when reading the gospel of Matthew in chapter 25 which refers to God returning upon his throne, with all the nations before him, and he separates the sheep from the goats. He places the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. To those on his right He says, "Come you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'" To those on the left he says, "Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

The next reading that hit me was from the gospel of Mark in chapter 16, which states, "So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God."

Then in the gospel of John in chapter 21, when there were no fish being caught, the Lord says to cast their net over the right side of the boat and when they did, the number of fish were so many they couldn't even pull up the net.

So the only gospel left to find something about this right/left message was in the gospel of Luke. The only thing I could find that would make sense was when Jesus was crucified and there was the good criminal on his right and the bad on his left. To the good criminal, who was repentant, the Lord promised to be with him in paradise that day.

There are even some references in the Old Testament, such as Ecclesiastes 10:2, "The wise man's understanding turns him to his right; the fool's understanding turns him to his left". And in Psalms 138:7, "Though I walk in the midst of dangers, you guard my life when my enemies rage. You stretch out your hand; your right hand saves me".

For the purpose of this letter, let's take Webster's definition of leftist, which states liberal and rightist is defined as conservative. After having read the passages above, I cannot help but believe that God is asking us quite simply to do the "right" thing. The right thing being values that promote life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, as so simply put in The Declaration of Independence.

I recall the song "Let There Be Peace on Earth" being sung while attending public elementary school in Massachusetts in the late 60's & early 70's. It is a beautiful song and touched me in a profound way as a youngster. As the song goes, "let peace begin with me". I pray we each look inside ourselves and search our heart for what is "right" and strive to do that which is "right".

For what is "right" is also what is "good". Together we can change the world and "write" the history that is truly "right" in the eyes of the God who has blessed our "One nation under God".

And, as so simply put by Archbishop Fulton Sheen, "The problem is not that we have lost our way, but that we have thrown away the map." May I suggest "the map" that he is referring to is the #1 best seller of all time, The Holy Bible…

Kelly Martin

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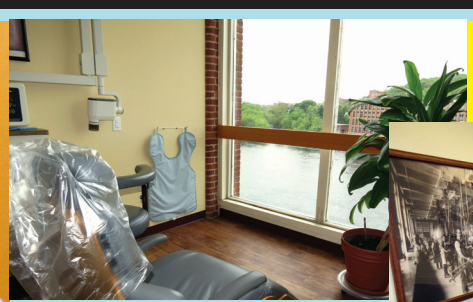
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Bigger is Definitely Not Better

Dr. Frank MacMillan, MD
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Health care consolidation is a bad deal for Massachusetts's consumers. Over the past two decades, our hospitals, physicians, and health plans have been concentrating market power to a degree that is unprecedented, and this trend has been stimulated and accelerated by government intervention. This has led to monopoly pricing, restricted networks, less consumer choice, and has not benefited patients or premium payers with better quality.

The trend to consolidation didn't start with the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), but grew largely in response to the failed so called insurance reforms in the 1990s. Mandated "guaranteed issue" insurance policies largely killed the individual insurance market in Massachusetts. Consequences of this made it necessary to enact new health care legislation under Governor Romney to address this market failure.

While Romneycare wasn't perfect by any measurement, the former Governor did much by asserting his power to affect compromise, to restrain the market-killing impulses of some in the legislative leadership that could have made this law much worse. In fact, Romneycare was successful in expanding access to insurance and very popular in Massachusetts. This law actually bore very little resemblance to Obamacare, other than the "individual mandate," which the Obama administration has largely abandoned anyway. Obamacare was a law written by a small clique of Senate leadership without any input from their own membership, or from the opposition. Its effect has been largely redistributive, and any gains in insurance access have proven to be arguable and trivial compared to the Massachusetts experience.

Related legislation mandating the use of electronic medical records has raised the cost of operating a medical practice or a community hospital to a level where consolidation is no longer a choice, but nearly necessary for survival, all the while creating the conditions for violating privacy and facilitating data mining by the government.

Obamacare has also largely undone any benefit from Romneycare, and has destroyed our previously functioning state insurance exchange in the process. It was also passed on a budget reconciliation vote that allowed no amendments, and only an up or down vote. Is it really surprising that the law that no one read before voting is the gift that keeps on giving? The whole mess recently reported about which persons in states with or without insurances exchanges get premium subsidies will be going to the Supreme Court at some point. Because insurance is generally regulated at the State level, expect more conflict and litigation in the future.

Back in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, our politicians have been practiced at the art of intervening in the market place for many decades. This was also the time and political context where Partners Health System formed, and forever changed the health care landscape in Massachusetts. Former House Speaker Tip O'Neil once said, "all politics is local", and it rings true in understanding the most recent mess. It is obviously a great temptation to politicians to insinuate themselves using the coercive powers of government, to pick winners and losers according to their own senses and needs which are political by nature, and not so much mattering on what is best, and apparently not well informed.

Increasing insurance premiums prompted action by Governor Patrick, who pushed very hard on the legislature to pass a law in the summer of 2012 commonly referred to as Chapter 224. This so called payment reform legislation involves government deeply into the business of health care in our state, among them it establishes a Health Care Policy Commission, and gives sweeping new powers to the Attorney General to examine and review all health care related mergers, acquisitions, and affiliations.

An example of Chapter 224 at work is the Partners Health System's recent South Shore Hospital acquisition. According to the review done by the HCP, the Partners system already controls approximately one third of all hospital related payments in the Commonwealth. It is also widely known that Partners' providers and facilities are paid on a fee schedule that is approximately 25% higher than all others. In the regulatory regime that is mandated by Massachusetts Chapter 224 payment reform law, the gain of one system is partly offset by the losses other systems.

In fact, a coalition of other systems, including Beth Israel Deaconess, Tufts and Lahey Health petitioned the AG not to approve the South Shore acquisition. Partner's added over 500 additional providers with this merger. They are also looking to buy the Landmark system, which includes two facilities in Medford and Melrose, and several hundred additional providers. The Governor's own Health Policy Commission estimates increased spending on the order of $15-23 million a year, and $38-49 million should the second transaction be approved by the AG. Given that all other

BIGGER: PAGE 38

Wrongful Employment Termination Laws in MA

Attorney Timothy F. Stark, Esq.
VALLEY PATRIOT LEGAL COLUMNIST

For this week's column, I thought I would discuss some specific Massachusetts laws that make an involuntary termination from employment unlawful in Massachusetts. Please keep in mind, however, that as a general rule, Massachusetts is an employment at will state. Therefore many involuntary terminations, even though unfair, are still lawful. In previous columns, I have described at some length the harshness of the employment at will doctrine and, thus, will not include it as part of this column.

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 152, sect. 75B(2) prohibits employers from discharging or otherwise discriminating against an employee for exercising rights under the Worker's Compensation act. An interesting exception within this statute, however, is that this law does not apply to employees who are subject to an inconsistent collective bargaining agreement. What this means is that if the employee is in a union, and the union contract states that arbitration is the sole remedy for an employee termination, then the union contract will "preempt" the Massachusetts law. Nonetheless, if in fact the employee can show that they were indeed terminated because of the worker's compensation claim they should still win their case of wrongful termination.

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 268,sect.14A makes it unlawful for an employer to terminate an employee for serving on a jury. Indeed, a secondary authority on this issue provides a terminated employee with a specific civil remedy, as well as subjecting the employer to criminal charges.

In previous columns, I have discussed wrongful terminations based upon an

Employer refusing to pay the employee previously earned income, as well as providing the employee the right to treble damages for the wages, reasonable attorney fees (admittedly an oxymoron), and interest.

A Federal statute, the "Occupational Safety and Health Act" (OSHA), section 11c prohibits the employer from discharging an employee for exercising his/her rights under the OSHA law. Massachusetts has a law with similar provisions, known as "The Right-to-know Law," which also has a non-retaliatory provision.

There are additional similar protections under Massachusetts case law, known as the Flesner doctrine (named after the plaintiff in the particular case) that provide employees with remedies for terminations for cooperating with law enforcement agencies, as well as for "Whistle-Blower" actions where employees are terminated for reporting unlawful conduct by their employer. In 1994 the legislature passed a law that provided specific remedies for public employees who engage in whistle blowing against their agency. There is also a "Public Policy Doctrine" in Massachusetts, derived from the State Constitution, that also provides employees with protection from wrongful terminations in which they report employer practices that would be considered in the "public's interest" to be aware of.

Also, as discussed in previous columns, Massachusetts has rigorously enforced anti-discriminatory laws that provide rights to employees who are involuntarily terminated as a result of what is called a "protected class." The descriptions of these classes can be found under Massachusetts General Laws chapter 151b, and are usually enforced at the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

The above laws are only some of the provisions that protect employees from wrongful terminations, and are not intended to be all-inclusive. Also, in order to determine if a particular set of circumstances falls within any of these laws, it is a good idea to check with an attorney who focuses on employment law.

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TV TALK WITH BILL CUSHING

Bill's TV Talk Mailbag

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

From time to time, my column will feature questions asked by readers regarding the world of TV. Feel free to email me with any questions you may have about TV at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com, and I'll do my best to answer you and may feature your question in a future column. Here's what we got!

Bill, My favorite show is The Blacklist. Can you tell me anything about the upcoming season, are we going to find out what happened to Tom, and when will it be back? - Marion from Methuen, MA.

Marion, I can tell you that the producers have confirmed that we will learn of the fate of Tom before the season is over, and they also confirmed that we haven't see the last of the character of Berlin. The show will return to NBC on September 22 at 10. However, enjoy it while you can. It will run until November 10, and then it will be taking a ten week break. It will return on Super Bowl Sunday and then move to its new night and time, Thursdays at 10. In casting news, Mary Louise Parker is joining the cast in a recurring role.

I'm so excited that Netflix has decided to bring back The Killing for one final season. What can you tell me about the new season? – Julie from Tewksbury, MA.

By the time you read this Julie, the show will be back. It premieres August 6th on Netflix. As far as what we can expect in this final season? Remember the character of Bullet from Season 3. Well she may be gone, but she is certainly not forgotten. Series creator, Veena Sud, said that the teen's Season 3 death will continue to haunt Holder. "That was a game-changer in terms of Holder's life," she explains. "Up until that point, he was a homicide detective who had not lost anything in the course of his work." Sud promises that there will be "a final moment" that will honor the Bullet-Holder relationship. This season's case will revolve around a student at an all boys military academy whose family was murdered, and Academy Award nominee Joan Allen will be joining the cast.

Please give me some info on the final season of Sons of Anarchy. I need to know what's going to happen. – Mike from Amesbury, MA

Well Mike, prepare yourself for one hell of a ride. According to Theo Rossi, who plays Juice, this season is going to be a bloodbath. He says, "People are dropping like flies, literally, every two seconds you're like, 'Oh, that person's gone. There's always a big clap-off it feels, every scene, every episode, somebody's leaving." Yikes! I can also tell you that the premiere is 1 hour and 45 minutes long, and picks up 10 days after the events of the 6th season finale. Sons of Anarchy's final season premieres September 9th at 10 on FX.

I absolutely loved Fargo. I heard it was one season and done though. Is it coming back or not? – Sandy from Manchester, NH

I have some good news and some bad news for you Sandy. The good news is that Fargo is absolutely coming back for a 2nd season. The bad news is that none of the cast from the first season will be returning. Season 2 will take place in 1979 and will center on the Sioux Falls case that Molly's dad, Lou, was describing in an episode at the end of the season. Producer Noah Hawley said that while the original cast will not return for season 2, he didn't rule out some of them returning for a possible season 3. Fargo is slated to return in the fall of 2015.

I was a huge Breaking Bad fan, and I'm really looking forward to the spinoff Better Call Saul. Can you tell me anything about it? – Jimmy from Westford,

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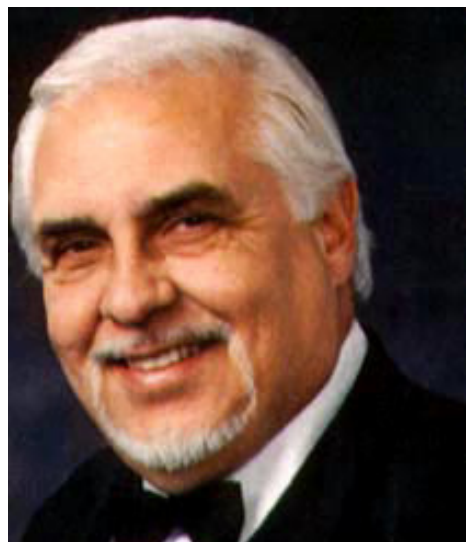
MIND OVER MATTER with JERRY VALLEY

The Power of Proper Suggestions

JERRY VALLEY, MACP
VALLEY PATRIOT HYPNOSIS COLUMNIST



When you think about it, we are all receiving suggestions just about everyday from our friends, co-workers, neighbors etc.

People give us suggestions about a great restaurant, a great movie or a great sale somewhere etc. Then, we decide whether to respond and take action or not.

The point is that we are swamped with the influence of suggestions from many different sources and those suggestions can affect our lives in a positive or negative fashion.

As an NGH Certified Consulting Hypnotist, I have the distinct advantage and responsibility to administer those suggestions to clients in the most ethical and proper manner.

But what impact do suggestions, given in the hypnotic state, have on the client?

Hypnotists, in the past, have felt that one suggestion given under hypnosis has the impact of 100 times more powerful than a suggestion given in the waking state. That's enormous! And is actually TRUE!

How can we, as hypnotists, be reasonably confident that the client will accept and act upon our suggestions which are designed to assist the client in reaching his/her goal?

We need to consider just how you and I would like to hear suggestions, made to us, that would motivate us to accept and follow those directions and ideas on our journey to make positive changes in our lives.

Suggestions given by the hypnotist must follow particular rules. These are listed for you:

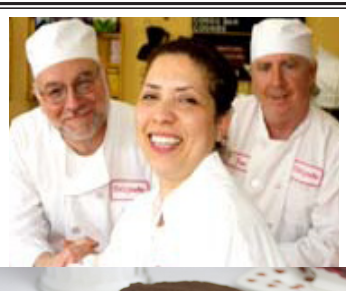
1. Keep the suggestions SIMPLE (KISS….Keep It Simple Simon). Remember, the subconscious mind can become easily confused and could reject the suggestion. Yes, a subject in the hypnotic state has the ability to reject a suggestion. However, once the suggestion is accepted into the subconscious mind, it will manifest itself.

Here is a sample of a simple, but powerful suggestion: "You might feel like smoking, but YOU DON'T HAVE TO." The words "YOU DON'T HAVE TO," take the compulsivity of action out of the equation. You see, that statement releases the POWER OF CHOICE which, in most cases, has been dormant for some time. For example, most smokers keep telling themselves (Auto-suggestion), "I CAN'T STOP SMOKING," thereby negating and suppressing the element of CHOICE. As a result of compounding that statement many times, the smoker cannot stop smoking until he/she changes the attitude from negative to positive. Also, once the client realizes that he/she has no compulsion to do something, and that they actually have a CHOICE, they are likely to follow that suggestion. I have had many clients tell me that they love that particular statement. I MIGHT FEEL LIKE SMOKING (OR OVEREATING OR BEING STRESSED OUT, ETC), BUT …… I DON'T HAVE TO!

2. We make the process of making a change in their lives, PLEASURABLE and FUN to do. What you are actually creating is a new outlook on the way the client thinks and therefore feels because we become what we think about. If a person keeps thing of stressful things most of the time, then he/she will positively feel stressed out. They create their own environment …… but you can help them change that. In the 17TH century a Russian psychologist once said: "If you want to change any part of your life, you need to change your THINKING!" Since we all move towards our dominant thought, we need to learn how to control our thinking. That is what I teach the client.

2. I teach the client how to think differently. For example, when a negative thought comes your way, change it to a positive thought. Now, this is not that easy and it takes practice. I had a physician come to me for help. He had taken a test 4 times and failed to pass each time. For several sessions, he kept reminding me that, since he failed 4 times, he probably will fail this last and only chance he had left. He stated that if he failed this 5TH test, he would probably lose his license. But, if he passed, he had an opportunity to increase his income. He had done intensive studying (maybe too much) and was well prepared except that when he took the tests, he had a negative outlook and he failed each time. HE HAD THE EXPECTATION OF FAILURE AND FAILED

JERRY VALLEY: PAGE 36



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SHEILA'S RECIPE CORNER

SHEILA MULLINS
VALLEY PATRIOT RECIPE COLUMNIST

Who hasn't accidentally grown or hasn't been given one of those lifetime supply size zucchini? There should be more than zucchini bread & ratatouille, as delicious as both are to eat. And, there is.

I usually keep some stuffed shells in the freezer for a fast meal when I don't feel like cooking or haven't been to the market yet. I decided to try a zucchini based stuffed shell. I'm featuring it here with a cheese based béchamel sauce, but we've tried it with regular tomato sauce & either way it's delicious!

Zucchini & Cheese Stuffed Shells

1 onion, diced
1-2 cloves garlic, diced
2 T olive oil
Dash of salt & pepper
½ c toasted pignolas/pine nuts
24 oz. part skim or regular ricotta
5 c grated zucchini, wrapped in a clean linen-type dish towel & squeezed dry
½ c each grated fontina & grated mozzarella
1 t each dried basil & oregano
1 t salt
½ t pepper
2 eggs
2 boxes of jumbo shells, cooked according to package instructions & cooled just enough so they can be handled

In a sauté pan, heat oil & add onion & salt. Sauté until translucent, about 2-3 minutes. Add garlic & heat until fragrant. Add pepper. Remove from heat & place in a large mixing bowl.

Into the same mixing bowl as onion mixture is in, add all remaining ingredients. Mix well.

Stuff shells so they are full even a bit too full, but not seriously overfull. Either freeze or place in baking pan to cook. If cooking right away, add desired sauce & top with a bit of shredded mozzarella & bake at 350°F for 20 minutes until exposed shell parts are browning & sauce is bubbling. If cooking from frozen state, place desired amount in baking pan & add sauce top with some shredded mozzarella cheese & bake at 350°F for 30-35 minutes until exposed shell parts are browning & sauce is bubbling.

To freeze, if you have never done it, take the individual shells & place on baking sheets so they are not touching. Freeze until solid, best, overnight. Place in gallon size plastic resealable bags in the freezer & take out as needed. It couldn't be easier!

Cheesy Béchamel Sauce

1.5 c shredded fontina
1/3 c grated parmesano reggiano
1 c grated pecorino romano
½ c cream
¾ c half & half or whole milk
½ c chopped fresh basil

Into a medium saucepan, place milk & cream. Heat over medium high until scalding. Lower heat to medium. Add cheese & stir until melted. Add 2/3 of the basil. Pour onto shells & cook as above. Top with remaining basil just before serving.

I try to not require any "specialty" equipment for my recipes, but here I go suggesting that one purchases a mandolin. There is no need to buy a really fancy one that can be adjusted, although it would do well here & for things like cole slaw, etc., but one like I purchased a while back at Marshall's for $13 will absolutely do the job. One really cannot manually cut the apples for this recipe. Besides, you will be amazed at how often you will use your mandolin.

I was watching Giada DiLaurentiis on TV make an apple chip recipe. This was inspired by that recipe only using a whole different flavour profile. It's relatively fast, it's darn simple, can be prepared in advance, low fat, low calorie, & bursting with flavour! For what better snack could one ask?

Spiced Apple Chips with Tandoori Dip

1-2 granny smith apples, thinly sliced on a mandolin
Pinch to 1/8 t salt
¼-1/2 t cinnamon
¼-1/2 t ground cumin
Dip:
½ c non-fat, low fat or Greek yogurt
1 t extra virgin olive oil
1 t freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 t ground ginger
1 t ground cumin
½ t minced garlic
1 t garam masala
½ t ground cinnamon
Dash cayenne pepper
Salt to taste

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line a baking sheet either with parchment paper or a silicone baking sheet. Lay the apple slices in a single layer & season with smaller amounts for 1 apple or larger amounts for 2 apples. Place in oven until either chewy or crispy & browned, 30-45 minutes, but start to check around 25 minutes.

Into a small mixing bowl add remainder of ingredients & mix. Store covered in refrigerator for 20-30 minutes so flavours can meld. Serve with chips.

Recipes are created by Sheila Mullins. Sheila lives in Newburyport & is a personal cook. She can be reached at Sheila_A_Mullins@hotmail.com & she looks forward to hearing from you.

The Cost of Corruption is Borne by All

Bharani Padmanabhan, MD
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Every day the media talk about the high cost of healthcare. The media go out of their way to give the impression it is due to greedy doctors who charge too much. These stories are, at the same time, accompanied by others that state that doctors are paid too little by insurance companies and have no time for their patients anymore. Where then is the money going?

The money is going to university hospitals, to drug and vaccine manufacturers, and to members of Congress. Along the way, insurance companies squeeze out a cut. Hospitals being major local advertisers, the media say only good things.

US taxpayers have funded medical research for decades. Universities convinced Congress to give them patent royalties for discoveries even when taxpayers had funded them. This became the Bayh-Dole Act. Universities got very rich as a result as can be seen in all the new steel and glass buildings they keep erecting to spread the cash amongst their various Trustees.

Massachusetts General Hospital licensed a drug which is marketed as Enbrel by Amgen. MGH and Amgen went to court over the royalties. Amgen paid MGH $186 Million to settle the lawsuit and gives MGH 20% of the $8 Billion that Enbrel brings in every year.

The early trials of Enbrel were funded mainly by taxpayers. But, if a taxpayer were to need Enbrel and cannot afford it, too bad. MGH certainly isn't going to give it to you.

Never ever confuse doctors with hospitals.

Similarly, Congress jumped in with another gift called The Orphan Drug Act, an abominable attack on the principles of the free market. Manufacturers could take any old drug that people have been getting from their local compounding pharmacy for generations, give it a new brand name, and be rewarded by Congress with "market exclusivity" for 7 years. Even worse, the FDA will police the market at taxpayers' expense to force the compounding pharmacies from making what they had made cheaply for decades.

A classic example of this was the recent flap over hydroxyprogesterone, an injection used by obstetricians for decades to prevent premature births. Hydroxyprogesterone from the local pharmacist costs $20 per injection. Congress gifted this drug to a company called KV Pharma which promptly charged $1500 per injection and sent strong letters to pharmacists ordering them to stop making their own under threat of FDA action. The FDA is the hired attack dogs.

This has been going on for years. In my own field of multiple sclerosis, we had a drug called 4-aminopyridine which we obtained from pharmacies for $90 every month. Congress gifted it to a company called Acorda which immediately sent cease-and-desist letters to pharmacies and priced the drug at $1056 a month.

http://ir.acorda.com/investors/investor-news/investor-news-details/2010/Acorda-Therapeutics-Announces-Pricing-and-Patient-Assistance-Programs-for-AMPYRATM-dalfampridine/default.aspx

The number of MS patients is lower than the number of pregnant women, so this came to pass silently.

In the case of hydroxyprogesterone, there was a massive backlash from pregnant women and advocates for preemies which forced the FDA to declare they would "not enforce" the cease-and-desist letters on pharmacies and that women could continue getting their $20 injections.

What this proved is that if enough people scream, Congress can be influenced in a good way. But the law remains on the books.

The Orphan Drug Act is used mainly to justify charging massive amounts for drugs. Recently Gilead Pharma said it was comfortable charging $80,000 once for treating Hepatitis C with sofosbuvir for 12 weeks because unlike other manufacturers charging $200,000 yearly for life, it actually cures the patient. Numerous people have filed suit contesting the patent itself given the $5 Billion at stake yearly. http://hepatitisresearchandnewsupdates.blogspot.com/2013/12/patent-battle-lines-drawn-as-sofosbuvir.html

Similarly, the price of vaccines has skyrocketed to the point where many people in the US cannot afford to vaccinate their children and doctors can't afford to give them away as in the past.

As a result, we now see the return of diseases we were sure were gone forever, like whooping cough. The CDC - "From January 1-June 16, 2014, 9,964 cases of pertussis have been reported to CDC by 50 states and Washington, D.C.; this represents a 24% increase compared with the same time period in 2013."

Pfizer's Prevnar vaccine brings in $4 Billion yearly, more than Lipitor or Viagra. The NY Times reported that doctors have to sign a contract stating they will keep Prevnar's price secret or they can't purchase it. Congress mandates vaccination for pneumoccoccus through the Affordable Care Act, Pfizer is the sole manufacturer (patent exclusivity) and charges whatever it wants, doctors can't price-shop, people who have insurance get it, the rest don't and Congress is happy.

Bharani Padmanabhan MD PhD specializes in treating patients with multiple sclerosis in the Boston area. scleroplex@gmail.com

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NO CEASEFIRE: FROM 30

our Arab neighbors, but also people in Europe and other countries around the world who bring accusations against Israel when she is doing nothing but defending herself. We do not attack. We fight back when we are attacked. We do not conquer – except when we win wars. We do not destroy, unless we are destroying terrorist infrastructure. We never hurt innocents – unless it is by accident, unfortunate tragedies that occur during times of war.

I am responsible for the safety of the people of Israel. It is up to me to stand up and say, enough is enough! We are done. There will be no more appeasement attempts. No more land for peace. No more terrorists released as a gesture of "good will." The only thing we will accept is peace for peace.

Israel will not negotiate with terrorists.

To the leaders of Hamas I say, loud and clear, in front of the whole world – lay down your weapons. Stop all terrorist activities immediately, for the good of the Palestinian people. There are many amongst the family of nations who will gladly support the Palestinian people financially, help them prosper and live productive, comfortable lives. Israel is first in line. We will facilitate the prosperity of the Palestinian people, but this can only be done when there is no more terrorism directed against us.

To the leaders of the world I say, as leader of my country I have a heavier burden than most of you. I am responsible of the welfare of my people, for their safety, as well as the continued existence of our nation. All countries have their complexities, however I don't think there is any other nation on earth that survives and even thrives under constant threat of annihilation. The Jewish people have risen from the ashes of the Holocaust to come back to our historical homeland and make sure that all Jews have a safe haven in this world. My job is to preserve that.

The nations of the world were silent while Jews were being exterminated during the Holocaust. Afterwards, all announced NEVER AGAIN, but today, when we are threatened, the nations of the world demand we appease our would-be murderers, "practice restraint" and at the first chance, accept whatever ceasefire is offered.

This is unacceptable. This endangers my people, my country and our future. I will not agree to this anymore.

The ONLY acceptable offering is peace.

Israel always has her hands extended in friendship and peace. We are happy to assist anyone in need, anywhere in the world. We have a long history of providing medical support, aid, rescue, technology and innovation to people across the globe. We will continue to do so. The Palestinian people can benefit enormously from friendship with Israel.

To the Palestinian people I will say, it is up to you to choose. Do you prefer the route of the terrorists? That way leads to poverty, anger, misery and death. You have the power to reject the terrorists who live amongst you and choose to live a different way. It is up to you.

Israel will not accept any violence against her. All terrorism must stop immediately. Those who do not stop, we will stop. If anyone, anywhere in the world has a problem with that, I can accept that. I am responsible for my people, not for making others happy. I am not looking to you for legitimacy. I am looking for the survival of my people.

Winston Churchill said that "An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile – hoping it will eat him last." One day, hopefully before it is too late, the nations of the world will understand that Israel's battle is not against the Palestinian people, but against Islamic jihadist terrorism which is a threat to the entire world – not just Israel. In the meantime, we will not allow ourselves to be "fed to the crocodile" or go meekly to the slaughter.

Don't offer us any more ceasefires. The ONLY acceptable offering is peace."

Forest Rain was born in Detroit and 'made aliyah', immigrated with her family to Israel at the age of thirteen. She served in the IDF (service is obligatory for all Israeli citizens). Forest is a Marketing Communications expert – writing for hi-tech companies for a living and Israel for the soul. Connect with Forest Rain, Writings from Israel: http://forestrain.wordpress.com, Twitter: @frisrael, Email: lionheart.e@gmail.com

JERRY VALLEY: FROM PAGE 34

ALL 4 TIMES.

When I finally realized that my suggestions were just not getting through, I found the answer to his problem. He saw the exam as a PROBLEM….instead of an OPPORTUNITY. My methodology was then very clear to me. All I had to do was to change his ATTITUDE from PROBLEM to OPPORTUNITY! And It worked! He passed the test and was so thrilled with my assistance, that he gave me a letter for publication.

Think about how you would respond to the suggestions given to you. Are they believable, are they fun to follow; do they make me feel good about myself? WHEN YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING THAT YOU SET YOUR MIND TO! My entire procedure is designed to make that client feel so good about themselves that they believe that change in life is not only necessary, but can be very enjoyable.

In summation, we tell clients to act, walk, talk, think, look and feel like the person they wish to be and make their lives a "PLAYGROUND" instead of a "BATTLEFIELD."

Remember, everything revolves around how we think.

Jerry Valley, NGH-Certified Consulting Hypnotist, 978-688-6657 or jerryvalley007@aol.com

TV TALK: FROM PAGE 34

MA

Better Call Saul is a prequel that follows Saul in the days before his dealings with Walter White and Jesse Pinkman -- though creators have said the show's timeline could move back and forth over several decades, including the years during and after Breaking Bad which means there's the potential for Bryan Cranston, Aaron Paul and others to make cameos. There is no set date for Better Call Saul to premiere but it's expected to hit the airwaves sometime in the last half of 2015.

Do you have any questions about TV? Email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future column.

Follow Bill on Twitter @TVNewsandNotes and on Facebook at TVNewsandNotes for daily TV news.

www.tvnewsandnotes.com

MORAN BROTHERS: FROM 1

In 1944, Howie joined the others in service to his country. Howie left boot camp and headed out to Treasure Island, located in San Francisco, California. As fate would have it, this was at the very same time that his brother, John, was being discharged and was on his way home. John also happened to be passing through San Francisco. Neither of the two brothers knew that the other one was going to be there. It was just by luck that they both happened to be out one night and bumped into each other. It came as a shock to both of them that they were clear across the country and happened to see each other.

Howie continued on to serve most of his time in Okinawa, Japan. He was a 3rd class store keeper and was in charge of about 33 men. He also served on the U.S.S. Ajax, a small repair ship that held close to 200 men. In 1948, Howie was hospitalized at the San Diego Naval Hospital and was discharged from there soon after. After coming home he went back to work with his brother, Joe, at the Arlington Mills and eventually went to work with the Lawrence Rubber Company, and then for the city of Lawrence in the Parks Department for 33 years.

The 5th and youngest brother, Moe, served in the US Army from 1958-1962. He was a private 1st class and spent most of his time serving in Germany. He was involved with a lot of rebuilding to the country after the devastation that followed WWII. He was the only brother not to be serving during a time of war and was discharged right before Vietnam really got off the ground. Moe, however, continued to serve his community when he left the military; he followed in his father's footsteps and became a firefighter in Lawrence.

A patriot is someone who loves and supports his or her country. Most of us, when we think of it at all, do think of ourselves as patriots but that feeling, for many of us, is never put to the test. To profess love for one's county is easy; to prove it, as the Moran brothers did, is a terrifying and life-threatening proposition. Many of us take an interest in the goings on in our community and country. Some of us go so far as to get involved in politics or community groups of some sort. But how many of us have the courage to express our feelings for our country as the Moran brothers did? How many make that ultimate commitment of risking their lives for it? In the years that so many young people are free to go off to college, enjoy the birth of adulthood, friends, family and freedom, the Moran brothers lived without any of that in order to ensure that we, and millions like us, would be free to enjoy our lives as we have. How sad and cruel that, for so many of us who have enjoyed the fruits of their sacrifice, we have done so without a thought for the men who risked, and even gave their lives that we might know such pleasure.

It was an early Monday morning and Joe and Howie, the last living Moran brothers, were sitting in the kitchen of Joe's house. Over coffee, they told tales of their time in the service, some they shared willingly and others more reluctantly with a request that they not be shared. They talked about engaging in battle on the shores of Okinawa, and the pain of watching fellow soldiers lose their lives in that same battle, of watching a kamikaze headed straight for another American ship and feeling helpless as they watched and prayed for the brave souls aboard the ship. Most of us will never fully understand the horror of such scenes.

Talking to the last two living Moran brothers, Joe and Howie, what is most striking is their humility. They were both reluctant to speak much about their experiences. They expected no gratitude or recognition for all they had gone through. They spoke, instead, of the men, some they had known and many, many that they had not, who had made the last and greatest sacrifice in those times, never coming back to live normal, quiet lives as the Moran brothers had. Rather than accepting any acknowledgement, they insisted that much of the time, it was simply about being at the right place at the right time. For the Morans, it had been a simple equation; their country needed them and they had answered the call. There was never any question of doing otherwise. Rather than seeking any honor for this, they feel that they have already been honored simply by being able to have shown the measure of their devotion to the country they love.

It is exactly this that makes these men real patriots. Between the five of them, the Morans have seen more of war than most families. Yet they did so quietly and without a second thought. And, rather than seeing anything special in what they did, they insist instead, on giving others credit for their brave and, in many cases, heroic actions. The Moran brothers are true patriots. John, Freddy, Joe, Howie, and Moe were willing to give their youth and risk their safety to serve their country honorably and, in the end, they were fortunate enough to have made it home. They consider themselves the lucky ones. Those who know them consider them true patriots.

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Children first.

NOTEBOOK: FROM 15

EVENTS

The 7th Annual Glow Golf Tournament
Friday, September 26, 2014, 7pm.
Murphy's Garrison Golf Center, $30.
654 Hilldale Avenue, Haverhill, Massachusetts. For more information and to sign up Contact Christine Santacroce (978)-580-7806 or Christine.santacroce@ebtc.com

END 68 HOURS of HUNGER in the Dracut elementary schools in Sept 2014

*This program is a 100% non-profit program that confronts the approximate 68 hours of hunger some children experience from the time they receive their free lunch at school on Friday afternoon, until the time they return to school on Monday.

*The program was started by Claire Bloom, a retired US Naval officer, in 2011. She began it in Dover, NH, in one school, feeding 19 children. Since then it has grown tremendously, and at the end of 2013, the program was in 14 different towns (10 in NH, 3 in Maine & 1 in California) and feeding over 700 children!

*The over 350 volunteers who run the 14 "chapters" have collected more than $160,000.00 in monetary donations as well as tons of food donations, last year alone ! Every person involved with End 68 Hours of Hunger is a VOLUNTEER, no one get's paid. All donations, both monetary and food, go directly to feed the children in need.

* At no time do any of the volunteers know the identity of any of the children. The schools identify the children that need this program and communicate the # of children to the program coordinator(s). Volunteers purchase the food, they pack and deliver the back packs to the schools on Fridays, and retrieve the empty back packs from the schools on Mondays.

LAWRENCE ARTIST ISSUES NEW RELEASE

Local dance music celebrity, Bylli Crayone of Lawrence, MA, has a new album due out on August 12th entitled 'The Best Of'. The album contains 14 of his best songs from fan favorites like 'Girl Hang It Up' (1991) to his more recent 'Mystery Boy' (2013). The album features songs that span his 23 years in music. All genres of dance music: from Pop & Freestyle to Merengue and Trance. The album also includes collaborations with such artists as 80's pop princess Tiffany of 'I Think Were Alone Now' fame, to local Bachata artist Domenic Marte. This album is the soundtrack to my life," says Crayone. Every single song on this album is personal to me. All written from the heart, with heavy meaning to them. Some call me crazy because of my 'colorful' look, but hey, it's my marketing tool. It's what defines me. Hence Crayone.

Not only does he have a new album coming out, but he will once again be assisting the less fortunate this year with his 8th Annual Back 2 School Give-Away. The Give-Away is of book bags loaded with school supplies for kids grades 1-8. The book bags include all the essentials from notebooks and binders to pens, pencils and erasers. Some will be given away over the radio via 'call ins', some will be given away through his official website at www.BylliCrayone.com, and some will be given away at a meet & greet at Dunkin Donuts on Jackson St., Methuen on Friday, August 8th at 6pm. It's first come, first serve. Limited supply available.

BREAD AND ROSES

The 30th Bread and Roses Heritage Festival takes place on Labor Day, September 1st, 12 to 6 pm., on the Common in Lawrence, MA. It is a free, one-day 'open air' celebration for the whole family.

Our top-line performers are: Bread and Puppet Theater - famed activist theater for young and old.

The Festival includes a celebration at the 1912 Textile Workers' Strike Monument, a new section of popular workshops, and our Lawrence History Live speakers' tent.

www.breadandrosesheritage.org

SENATOR IVES OPENS OFFICES, METHUEN, SALISBURY, HAVERHILL

Supporters packed into State Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives' re-election campaign headquarters in Downtown Methuen on 17 Hampshire Street, for an energetic office opening on Monday, July 21st. The Salisbury office opened on Wednesday, July 23rd, and a space in Haverhill is opening later this month.

Valley Patriot reader Henri Sabbane, right, (a member of the Israeli Defense Forces) overlooks all the food and gifts sent to IDF soldiers while they fight the savage Hamas terrorists in Gaza.

State Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives represents the First Essex District of Massachusetts, which includes Amesbury, Newburyport, Haverhill, Merrimac, Methuen, North Andover and Salisbury. She was elected to the seat after former Senator Steve Baddour stepped down in 2012.

The Democratic Primary is on Tuesday, September 9th, followed by a general election on Tuesday, November 4th.

LAWRENCE COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

The GLCAC's 2nd Annual Community Resource Fair on August 13th at Campagnone Park will introduce residents of Lawrence to the variety of services available to help them overcome challenges and achieve success.

The Community Resource Fair, from 3 to 6 pm, will feature non-profit organizations and local businesses providing assistance with education, financial services, health, housing assistance, social services, job training and youth activities. Residents who visit the organizations at the fair and complete a checklist will be entered into a raffle to win one of dozens of donated backpacks with school supplies.

Non-profit organizations and Lawrence businesses interested in reserving a resource table at the fair can contact the GLCAC's Community Service Center by calling (978) 681-4905 to obtain a registration form and information. There is no fee to participate, but organizations are asked to provide at least two backpacks with school supplies to be given as raffle prizes to fair visitors.

HOME HEALTH VNA

Home Health VNA received the 2014 Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce (MVCC) Business Award in the category of Healthcare. This award recognizes Home Health VNA as a leader in the local healthcare community and celebrates its accomplishments and successes. More than 200 MVCC members attended the annual award ceremony which honored other local businesses in a variety of different categories.

"It is a great honor to be recognized by the Chamber for the critically important home healthcare we provide throughout the Merrimack Valley and beyond," said Gomes. "Home Health VNA is one of the most respected home healthcare agencies in the region and we are committed to quality services and optimal patient care." Visit HomeHealthVNA.org or call 800-933-5593.

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IN THE CARDS With RICK DICARLO

That Old Black Magic…

Perhaps you have heard stories of people you know that have gone for a reading and had a very convincing experience. The reader seemed to know intimate details about their lives that seem uncanny in their precision and accuracy. This is what we strive for when we decide to obtain a reading … but then something turns, the reader goes on with a litany of bad things that are happening to and around you, and then tells you the reason for this is a curse, a hex or some other form of mojo being visited upon you either by an enemy, or "the spirits", or some other "mystical baddie" working against you! Luckily, you have come for a reading with just the person that can not only sense the dark energy, but also has the power to lift the curse, undo the hex and make everything right again in your life … for a small price! Or not such a small price! For several hundred dollars (in one version I heard, it was $1,200) that this warrior of light is going to burn, or pray over or otherwise remove from your bank account to take away the bad juju for you.

STOP RIGHT THERE! Do not pass go, and certainly do not fork over any cash to such a person. They are charlatans, with no more power to reverse the curse than the "mystical baddie" had to place it upon you in the first place. This is bunk, nonsense designed to prey upon poor unsuspecting victims who already feel that they are down on their luck, or worse, sick with some life threatening disease. (Yes, a friend of mine had this happen while undergoing chemotherapy)!

Unfortunately this does happen, and worse, many people fall for the scam. Far from changing their luck, it serves only to lighten their bank account and shake their faith in honest readers and psychics. My suggestion is to leave their studio and contact the police. Chances are if you are dealing with such a one, the police are already aware of their practice. This is a travesty; please do not let it happen to you!

A good reader will give you insight, offer option in a compassionate way and try to help you follow your dreams while avoiding possible pitfalls or detours! They may ask you some questions to help clarify their feelings and crystallize details, but this is simply to narrow the field of possibilities and offer more helpful advice. They will arm you with awareness so that you may make your own informed decisions, and then present you with the possible outcomes. They may suggest "homework", certain books to read, or practices that can help you to attain your goals, they may even suggest you see a professional (doctor, lawyer, psychologist, etc.) but they will not try to make your decisions for you, or take away your own power of choice.

And now for this month's e-mail: from Loving in Lawrence. She writes: I am dating 2 men, who are both aware of the other's place in my life, but I'm feeling that the time has come to choose one of them to work on a real relationship. Whom should I choose?

Well Loving, in a situation like this where there is a choice to be made, what I would do is prepare 2 layouts. One for each of the suitors.

For **suitor A** we have the following cards:

32 The Moon - 29 The Woman - 17 The Stork

And for **suitor B** we drew:

15 The Bear - 13 The Child - 14 The Fox

From these spreads I would say that: You feel more emotionally connected to suitor A. He is possibly fair skinned, light hair and eyed and may be well known or have a good reputation in the community. The woman card represents YOU, and it would seem that you have known this man for quite some time. You both may be romantic and bring out the best in each other, and also share a love for good food and good laughs! The Stork tells us that there is positive change coming, possibly a change in living situation. Perhaps you will be moving in together in the future.

Suitor B may be a larger man, dark haired and eyed and built like a football player. He can be a cuddly man, but also has a bit of a jealous streak, and may have shared some displeasure that you are seeing another man at the same time. He is more of a homebody, and prefers quiet nights to partying with a crowd. The Child says that he may be a bit childish in some ways, or child-like, which is not necessarily a bad thing, however, The Fox tells me that something is not quite what it seems. I wonder if you feel that he is not entirely trustworthy? The child may also show that he is a newer relationship for you, where I feel you have more history with suitor A.

It would seem that suitor A is your man, but you probably already know that deep down inside. You have a strong intuition and should follow your feelings, in this case, they will not lead you astray!

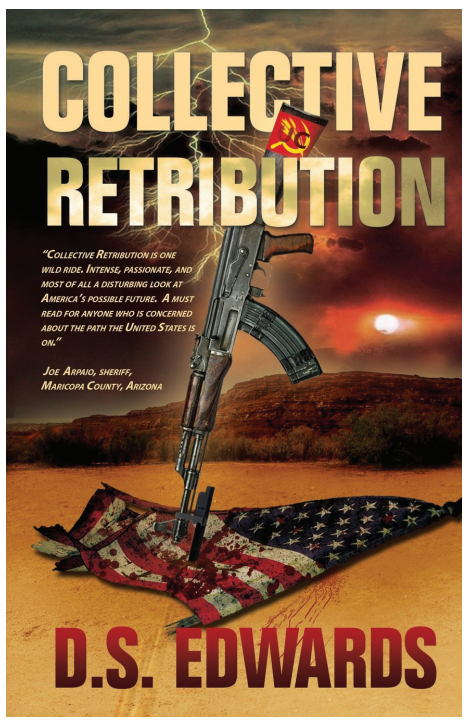
Best of luck to you all… be happy!

Do you have a burning question? If so, send it in an e-mail to: aselzion@gmail.com and we will explore the answers in future editions of The Valley Patriot.

Richard DiCarlo has studied Astrology for over a quarter of a century. During this time he has lectured, taught and counseled hundreds in his private Astrology and card reading practice. He has appeared on WLLH radio's Ramona's New Age Program with renowned psychic Ramona Garcia. He also had the privilege of working and studying with Linda Goodman, best-selling author of Sun Signs, Love Signs and Star Signs. During that time he helped her to produce her short-lived Star Notes project, which was a subscription-based newsletter to her fans around the globe.

LEX LUTHOR'S BOOK REVIEWS

Collective Retribution


COLLECTIVE
RETRIBUTION
"Collective Retribution is one wild ride. Intense, passionate, and most of all a disturbing look at America's possible future. A must read for anyone who is concerned about the path the United States is on."
Joe Arpaio, sheriff, Maricopa County, Arizona
D.S. EDWARDS

Collective Retribution, a new novel by D.S. Edwards, available on amazon.com and at CollectiveRetribution.com, is a fictional story of a future America that many people fear could happen if we don't change the political tide.

On the dust jacket of the book is a quote from Abraham Lincoln, which says "America will never be destroyed from the outside, if we falter and lose our freedom, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

D.S. Edwards is a storyteller in the same class as Tom Clancy, Dale Brown or Stephen Coontz, but doesn't bombard the reader with a lot of technical jargon. He builds a relationship between the reader and his characters, especially the main character, Levi Nirschell, and uses that to take the reader on a wild ride with many twists, turns and bumps. It was a page-turning adventure full of action that I just couldn't put down. Levi Nirschell is a mixture of Davy Crocket and Jack Ryan, a real salt of the earth individual who has been called by his country many times to protect and defend it. He is a true patriot. He lives in a world where the President believes that all of America's problems are caused by our arrogance, and if we only would apologize, the people in the Middle East would love us. Now, he finds out that a major terrorist attack is about to happen on US soil with nuclear weapons, and he is sent out to find and stop the plot.

This is a story that shares elements of current day America, like the illegal immigrant crisis and our deep political divide; the movie, Red Dawn; and elements of the American Revolution. What will happen to America when all of the basic necessities of life that we take for granted are not there? What happens to our society and way of life as the safeguards provided by our police and military aren't available? Will people work together, or will what is the United States cease to exist? Will the 1/3 fight for liberty? It may be fiction, but scarily, could very well become our reality. When America is in trouble, will anyone come to help?

BIGGER: FROM PAGE 33

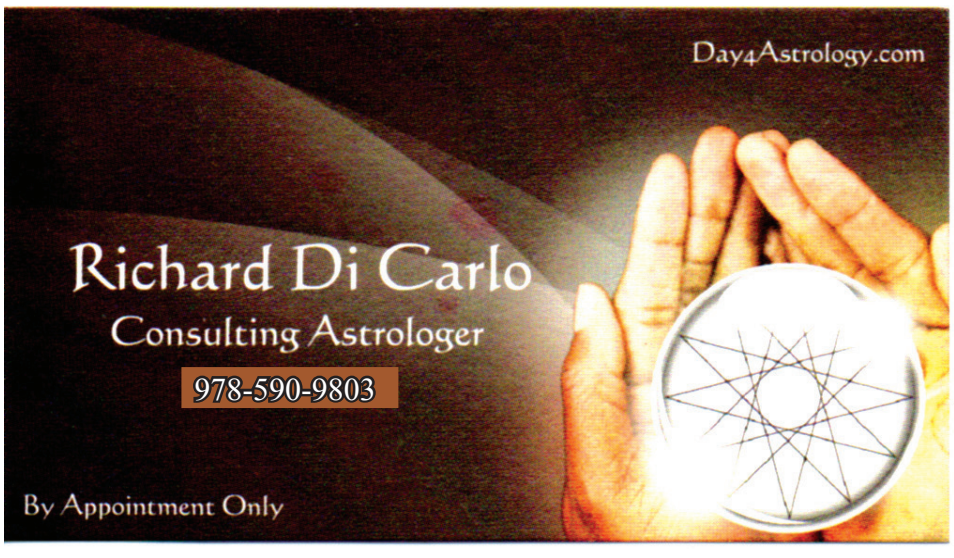
non-Partners providers and hospitals are looking at flat or reduced payments, is it any wonder that many conclude that it is good to be in Partners?

And what about the Commonwealth's top law enforcement officer, who also happens to be a politician, and who is a declared candidate for Governor? Could it be that because of political sensibilities and sensitivities, or that Partners is one of the largest employers in the state with over 60,000 employees, that the AG didn't get the best deal for the consumer? A better question would be why does a politician have or even need all of this power in the first place if they are not going to exercise it impartially?

A reasonable conclusion is that every government intervention in the market place has consequences, many of which require subsequent interventions to deal with unanticipated consequences, and many of which are hard to undo. Our state legislature has a knack for quickly moving from one bad idea to another, and burying health care legislation into unrelated things such as budget amendments, that do all sorts of mischievous things, allow no debate or subsequent amendments, and are passed on party line voting. The system does not allow thoughtful debate, and does not hear all sides before deciding important matters.

It is very difficult for the public to hold its legislators accountable when items are passed on voice votes, or when the budget is held hostage. We don't need a political litmus test on liberal or conservative views to get good legislation or good politicians, but we do need people of good character who exercise the powers delegated to them thoughtfully, courageously, and responsibly.

Dr. MacMillan specializes in Gastroenterology and Liver diseases, is a Fellow of the American College of Gastroenterology, and its Massachusetts Governor. He is Vice President of the Massachusetts Gastroenterology Association. Dr. MacMillan is a native of North Andover and practices Gastroenterology in Haverhill at Holy Family Hospital at Merrimack Valley, where he serves as the Chief of Medicine. He has been a member of the North Andover Board of Health since 2007.



AMERICAN LEGION NOTES FOR AUGUST

John Lenotte
VALLEY PATRIOT VETERAN COLUMNIST

As summer begins to pass and fall approaches, there are a couple of significant dates coming up. Primary elections in Massachusetts will be held on September 9th. The deadline for registering to vote is August 20th. We will be voting for the top state officials: Governor/Lt. Governor/ Treasurer/Auditor/Attorney General, and so on. We will also be voting for US Senator: Senator Markey is up for re-election. And we will be voting for members of the US House of Representatives. Given all the turmoil in our state, country and the world, this is an important election.

The primaries of course are a prelude to the general elections which will be held on Tuesday, November 4th. The Massachusetts Secretary of State website indicates that as of October 2012, there were over 4 million registered voters. Are you registered to vote? Will you vote this fall? Our elected officials need to be sent a message. If you support them, they need your vote. If you do not support them, then you should vote for their opponent. When was the last time you called, emailed or wrote a letter to any of your elected officials to let them know how you feel on a particular topic? If they do not hear from you then they can only go with those who have contacted their office. The place to voice your pleasure or displeasure is in the voting booth. Voting is one of our fundamental rights and obligations as citizens of this great country. I hope you will join me in exercising this right both in September and November.

Do not be confused or overly influenced by all the media ads that will be coming out. A website I often use is www.votesmart.org. There are of course many others out there. Become an informed voter.

This fall, as many in Congress are battling for reelection, I hope you will make your voice heard. Given all that is going on in the world, is this the time to reduce our military strength in terms of personnel and weapons? To keep the peace a strong defense is necessary. Whether you agree or disagree with me, the only way we can really effect decisions is to contact our legislators and as noted before – to VOTE.

On a bright note, Congress should be congratulated for quickly approving the nomination of Robert McDonald as the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs and moving on legislation to give additional money to hire additional staff. As I write this article, the legislation is still in the approval process. Secretary McDonald has a tremendous job ahead of him. The VA Inspector General is reportedly investigating 90 VA facilities across the country. A full report is due out sometime in August. There are many issues with the health care facilities and with benefits claims processing. And there will be more veterans entering the VA system as the budget cuts result in troop strength reductions that will number in the thousands!

May God Bless our troops, their families and this great country.

John Lenotte is the recipient of the 2012 Valley Patriot Hero of the Year Award and is Commander of the Wilbur M. Comeau Post 4, Haverhill MA; Past Department Commander, of Massachusetts The American Legion; contact: JohnLDistrict8@verizon.net

HAJJAR: FROM PAGE 30

in just days. We are seeing it all before our very own eyes.

So what does it take to be a great leader? Well for one it requires being honest. People are much more likely to want to work for a company that is being lead by a CEO that stands behind his or her promises, rather than be fed a fluffed up story.

Secondly, being compassionate is another overlooked trait. Too many leaders today try and lead with a balance sheet, not realizing that building a solid team of people is worth a lot more than an excel spreadsheet. And what about integrity? Our forefathers made agreements on a handshake and stood by their word. Do what you say you are going to do. That's it. Done.

Leaders and managers will hold a lot more clout that way than not acting in the best interests of their employees. Be fearless. True leaders are willing to take risks and are able to learn from their mistakes. Engage with your employees.

We all want to feel like we are a part of something bigger than ourselves and that we contribute to a cause. Lastly is principal. Why do you think the Market Basket customers, myself included, have boycotted shopping at their stores? We all know the competing grocery stores are more expensive, but we are shopping at them anyways until hopefully something is resolved. Why? Because it's the right thing to do for our community and to set the right examples for our children.

Our country was founded on movements similar to the Market Basket dilemma.

We all want to embrace a leader that has the same visions as we do: to move forward together and stand as one. It's empowering and truly inspiring to be a part of something so moving like this. It's the Boston Tea Party reincarnated two hundred and forty one years later. Let the employees of Market Basket, their families and friends be a great example to all of us on how to stand up for what's right and to fight for a cause. Bravo.

IVES: FROM PAGE 27

a written statement of the top five contributors if contributions exceed $5,000 and directions to the OCPF website for a listing of all contributors.

H. 4374 An Act Relative to Local Housing Authorities

I co-sponsored this bill to create transparency and accountability in our housing authorities. Training programs will be offered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to housing or redevelopment authority members that will provide guidelines on proper management practices and keep them up to date with the open meeting law, public records law, conflict of interest laws, fair housing laws, fraud prevention, and fiduciary responsibilities. The department will now have the ability to oversee contract provisions and remove provisions that don't conform to guidelines. DHCD is also required to set up a monitoring program and evaluations on the operation of housing authorities. Each housing authority would be required to submit a public annual plan detailing its goals and objectives. The state has 240 housing authorities. This bill also aims to encourage more collaboration and resource sharing between smaller housing authorities.

H. 4200 An Act Relative to the Scheduling of High School Athletic Contests

In response to recent scheduling conflicts between the Methuen Division I North semifinal baseball game and SAT exams, I co-sponsored a bill filed by Representative Scibak that would prohibit the Massachusetts Athletic Association (MIAA) from scheduling any games that occur before 2:00 pm on any day that the SAT or ACT is being offered. The MIAA would be required to either re-schedule the playoff to a different day or to add additional sites on the testing day and start the games at a later time. Since the filing of this bill the MIAA has responded with proposed measures that would prevent this conflict from happening in the future. I am hopeful the new proposal will prevent future scheduling conflicts like we have recently experienced in Methuen from happening to any other school district. Student athletes should not have to choose between taking critical college entrance exams and participation in memorable capstone games. If the implementation does not prevent such scheduling conflicts, I will proceed with a legislative solution.

I look forward to the work ahead for continued progress on the issues that matter to my constituents in the State Senate district.

Senator O'Connor Ives can be contacted at Kathleen.oconnorives@masenate.gov

NEWBURYPORT: FROM PAGE 23

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